Tanong ng Bayan/A18

Dapat bang limitahan ang dami ng anak?

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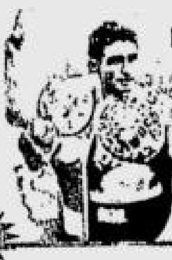


■ Sports / A32

Morales unifies world super featherweight titles

■ Lifestyle / F1

They could have danced all season

■ Entertainment / C1

'Dolphy Day' in Illinois

■ Business / B2-1

Something new from 'wagwag'

Marikina, Pasig, Davao 'top business attractions'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Businessmen have chosen Marikina, Pasig and Davao as the most competitive metropolitan cities in the Philippines, according to a report by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center.

MARIKINA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Good cop vs bad cop

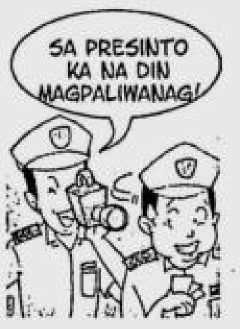
By Christian V. Esguerra

"*KOTONG*" and "*hulidap*" policemen, beware. Honest colleagues are watching you.

Finally.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes' recycled

GOOD/ A21


SA PRESINTO KA NA DIN MAGPALIWANAG!

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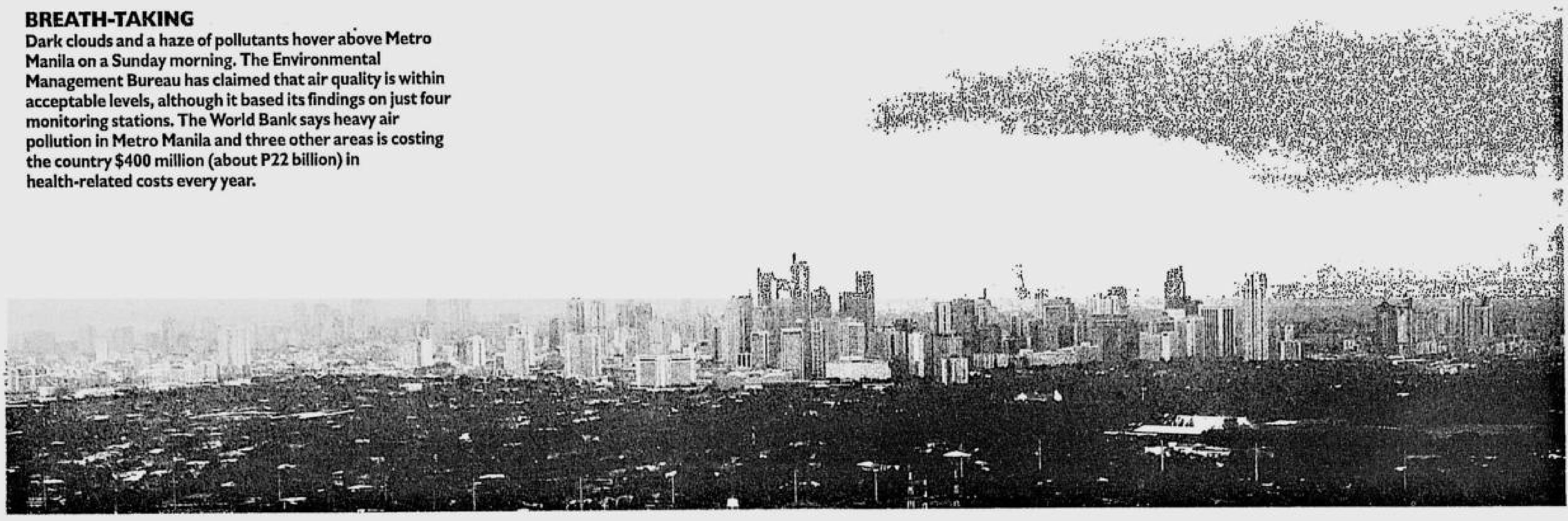
BREATH-TAKING
Dark clouds and a haze of pollutants hover above Metro Manila on a Sunday morning. The Environmental Management Bureau has claimed that air quality is within acceptable levels, although it based its findings on just four monitoring stations. The World Bank says heavy air pollution in Metro Manila and three other areas is costing the country $400 million (about P22 billion) in health-related costs every year.



JESS YUSON

Abu lawyer denies Gracia cleared AFP

'She was silent when collusion issue was discussed'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

GRACIA Burnham, in her court testimony, never cleared the Armed Forces of the Philippines of allegations that some of its officers had connived with the Abu Sayyaf, according to a defense lawyer.

"I was there when Gracia Burnham testified. She did not say anything about clearing the military of collusion with the Abu Sayyaf," Oliver Lozano, a lawyer for the Abu Sayyaf, said in an interview on ANC television yesterday.

"She did not say that there was no collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf," Lozano added.

Talking to the INQUIRER, Lozano said that Burnham uttered not a single word in court when the issue came up.

"All throughout, she was silent when the issue of collusion was discussed," he said.

Burnham's testimony last week before a special court trying several Abu Sayyaf bandits sparked a controversy when Department of Justice prosecutors told reporters that the American missionary had told the court "that there was no collusion" between the Armed Forces and the bandit group.

Reporters were barred from covering the hearing presided over by Pasig Regional Trial Court Judge Lorifel Pahimna at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan and could only rely on accounts supplied by the prosecution.

Doubts were raised on the prosecutors' account after ABS-CBN showed video footage of portions of the hearing. In the footage, defense lawyers questioned Burnham on the alleged connivance between the military and the Abu Sayyaf but prosecutors immediately objected.

Not once in the video did Burnham say anything about it.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel had also questioned the veracity of the prosecutors' version of Burnham's testimony, saying it contradicted her account in the book she wrote about her ordeal.

Pimentel blamed the "spin masters of the administration" for the controversy.

Burnham was held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf for more than a year until she was rescued during a military operation in which her husband, Martin, and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap were killed.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Armed Forces officials had expressed elation at Burnham's purported statements clearing

ABU LAWYER/ A4

Gunmen kill Laoag radioman

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—He was his usual hard-hitting self on Saturday night, lambasting "jueteng" operations in the city and the police for turning a blind eye to the illegal numbers game.

He also denounced the local electric cooperative for supposed mismanagement.

Riding home on his Yamaha motorcycle after airing his commentaries on his popular radio program on dzJC-Aksyon Radio, broadcaster Robert Mariano was gunned down by unidentified attackers—the latest in a growing list of Filipino journalists felled by assassins' bullets.

Mariano, 44, succumbed to at least 10 bullet wounds in the back and head, police said.

Mariano, who was driving home to Dingras town, more than

GUNMEN/ A20

Party-list system still vague to voters

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REP. Rene Velarde (Buhay), left, says his party-list group's pro-life advocacy has social and political dimensions, not just religious.

By Cynthia D. Balana

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE PARTY-LIST system in the Philippines remains a mystery to most voters.

Six years after the first party-list election was conducted, 67 percent of the voters are not aware of the party-list system or how it works, according to Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann "Etta" Rosales.

Worse, many members of the House of Representatives, who represent districts, do not welcome the party-list system, she said.

When the first party-list election was held in 1998, only 13 nominees made it to the House. In 2001, there were 20, and this year, 24 nominees. Four more nominees are still waiting for their proclamation by the Commission on Elections.

"It's a difficult situation," Rosales said. "In terms of legislating, it's still in its very, very

PARTY-LIST/ A21

With Aussie aid, Pinoy child now walks, hugs

ROGER MARGALLO

JURIEL Amora shows off a skateboard present upon his arrival at the Naia following a successful operation in Australia.

By Volt Contreras

MEANINGFUL human interaction transcends political courtesies. And so 5-year-old Juriel Amora and his family will think well of Australia all their lives, although diplomatic relations between their country and that of the boy's benefactors may have soured lately.

Juriel, born without legs and with only one arm, can now walk and hug his parents and friends with prosthetic limbs, thanks to kind-hearted people from Down Under.

Thanks specially to a missionary from New Zealand who worked beyond his calling to bring Juriel in June to Sydney, where an outpouring of sympathy, support and expert services awaited the boy.

With his father Joel, a playful Juriel came home on Saturday afternoon aboard a Philippine Airlines flight, on his "feet" and within reach of a normal life.

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Juriel gamely took big steps, flapped both his real (right) and dummy (left) arms, and made funny faces for the media.

Joel, 41, expressed profuse gratitude to Danny Simms,

WITH AUSSIE/ A21

The end of the stardust trail to the presidency

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE 2004 Philippine elections pulled off a few surprises. The results did not confirm a number of expectations. They did not confirm either the worst-case or the best-case scenarios.

The worst-case scenario was that the delay in the proclamation of President Macapagal-Arroyo would plunge the country into a constitutional crisis. This did not happen.

Those who thought that Ms Arroyo could not win were not only disappointed but also stunned. The results banished the nightmare of Fernando Poe Jr. becoming president.

The other nightmare, which haunted the opposition, was that the administration would steal the presidential election with wholesale cheating, which would have destroyed the credibility of the electoral exercise.

The results showed that the Philippine electoral system was more resilient than many had thought. I'll just discuss two aspects of the election that might help explain the results.

The first is that the election shattered the myth that movie stardom is an express short-cut to the presidency.

The second myth that was exploded is that a sitting president would find it difficult to win an election.

On the issue of show biz popularity as a vehicle to national office, these are some of the statistics:

THE END/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/02/04

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By Carlito Pablo

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Kampi is flexing its political muscle anew, a move that could put De Venecia in a bind and threaten Lakas' fragile alliance with the revitalized political party and with the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

The bone of contention is the chairmanship of the House committee on ways and means, which Lakas had agreed to give to Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus as part of the terms for the continued alliance between Lakas and NPC of which Lapus is a member.

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With Kampi and NPC hardening their positions, Lakas is in for some delicate negotiations on how to resolve the tug-of-war over the chairmanship of the ways and means committee, which oversees revenue measures.

Lapus had rejected a term-sharing arrangement with Teves.

Kampi, which was recently revived by Rep. Ronaldo Puno (Antipolo), has gained recognition as a potent power bloc in Congress.

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Use pork barrel to control birth rate, urges solon

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Carlito Pablo

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He noted that population control had been a low priority of the Arroyo administration with family planning programs getting a measly P700 million budget.

Salceda said the bulk of population control funds or P500 million come from USAID and this is used largely to subsidize the cost of condoms and birth control pills and consultancies.

Palace backs ₱1B rice importation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG has endorsed the planned importation of P1.3 billion worth of rice by the National Food Authority this quarter without a public bidding.

"I believe there's really a need for such importation," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in a phone interview. "The mode of importation being availed of is to ensure that the total requirement is met."

The Department of Justice earlier approved the rice importation through a negotiated procurement and exempted the importation from the required public bidding on all state contracts worth at least P300 million.

Bunye said the DOJ clearance would "remove any obstacle on the importation."

The DOJ issued its decision after Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who was then NFA head, warned that the country could suffer a rice supply shortfall of 91,500 metric tons between July and September this year because private importers were unwilling to import rice due to the high price of the staple in the world market.

Meanwhile, farmer-beneficiaries of the country's land reform program may soon be planting new high-yielding rice varieties.

Agrarian reform communities are participating in ongoing rice variety trials by the government's rice research agencies.

One such community is the Casiguran Agrarian Reform Community in Sorsogon that has been chosen as one of the project study sites of the ongoing rice trials and breeding being conducted by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

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By targeting these three million couples (with an annual subsidy of P1,000 each), Salceda said the government would be able to address the country's rapid population growth.'

He noted that population control had been a low priority of the Arroyo administration with family planning programs getting a measly P700 million budget.

Salceda said the bulk of population control funds or P500 million come from USAID and this is used largely to subsidize the cost of condoms and birth control pills and consultancies.

Palace backs ₱1B rice importation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG has endorsed the planned importation of P1.3 billion worth of rice by the National Food Authority this quarter without a public bidding.

"I believe there's really a need for such importation," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in a phone interview. "The mode of importation being availed of is to ensure that the total requirement is met."

The Department of Justice earlier approved the rice importation through a negotiated procurement and exempted the importation from the required public bidding on all state contracts worth at least P300 million.

Bunye said the DOJ clearance would "remove any obstacle on the importation."

The DOJ issued its decision after Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who was then NFA head, warned that the country could suffer a rice supply shortfall of 91,500 metric tons between July and September this year because private importers were unwilling to import rice due to the high price of the staple in the world market.

Meanwhile, farmer-beneficiaries of the country's land reform program may soon be planting new high-yielding rice varieties.

Agrarian reform communities are participating in ongoing rice variety trials by the government's rice research agencies.

One such community is the Casiguran Agrarian Reform Community in Sorsogon that has been chosen as one of the project study sites of the ongoing rice trials and breeding being conducted by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

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Gov't paying more for fewer workers

By TJ Burgonio

GOVERNMENT expenses for the salaries of at least one million employees have more than tripled in the last 10 years, but this has failed to address manpower shortages in "front-line agencies" such as public schools and police stations, Sen. Ralph Recto said yesterday.

Recto said that payroll expenses for some 1.1 million government workers shot up by 210 percent from P92.5 billion in 1994 to P286.5 billion this year.

"The irony of it all is that the growth in the payroll budget hasn't plugged manpower shortages in front-line agencies like schools and police stations. Clearly, if the bureaucracy were a human body, the muscles had not been well distributed," he said.

Recto noted that the budget allocation for wages of state employees, known as personal services, accounted for 33.1 percent or nearly a third of the national budget, up from 28 percent 10 years ago.

In contrast, the capital outlay for roads, classrooms and police stations got only a 6.1-percent share of the national budget, Recto said.

Recto said the data showed that we have been allocating more funds for a workforce that serves a growing population.

The population grew from 66.84 million in 1994 to 84.24 million this year, but this was not matched by a corresponding growth in the number of state employees, Recto said.

"So we can infer that the increase in the payroll budget was largely for the adjustment of salaries and not due to new hires," he said.

Sixty percent of the country's tax collection, or 60 centavos for every P1 of tax collected goes to the payment of the payroll expenses.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked Congress to pass eight tax measures to raise P80 billion in additional revenues and to generate P100 billion in savings for the government to avert a looming fiscal crisis.

But some senators are opposing the imposition of new taxes, pointing out that the government should boost its efficiency in collecting existing taxes, instead of imposing new taxes which would only add to the burdens of the poor.

As this developed, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II proposed yesterday the hiring of more prosecutors to speed up the resolution of thousands of pending graft cases.

The neophyte lawmaker said that Congress should authorize the Office of the Ombudsman to recruit 100 new prosecutors by including a provision allowing such hiring in the 2005 national budget.

2 Abus killed; leader escapes

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops killed two suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf and wounded a ranking commander of the extremist guerrilla group during a raid on the rebels' hideout in Tawi-Tawi, a military official said Sunday.

The rebel commander, Abu Huraira, and two guerrillas opened fire on a group of Philippine Marines and Navy men who had approached their hideout in Bongao town, setting off a brief gunfight Saturday, Navy Capt. Feliciano Angue, commander of a regional antiterror task force, said.

The troops were led to the house by villagers, who reported the presence there of the gunmen. During the clash, Huraira was wounded but managed to escape. His two companions were killed, while no soldiers were hurt, Angue said.

Huraira is wanted for a string of kidnappings and murders and is linked to suspected Abu Sayyaf leader Binang Andang. *AP, AFP*

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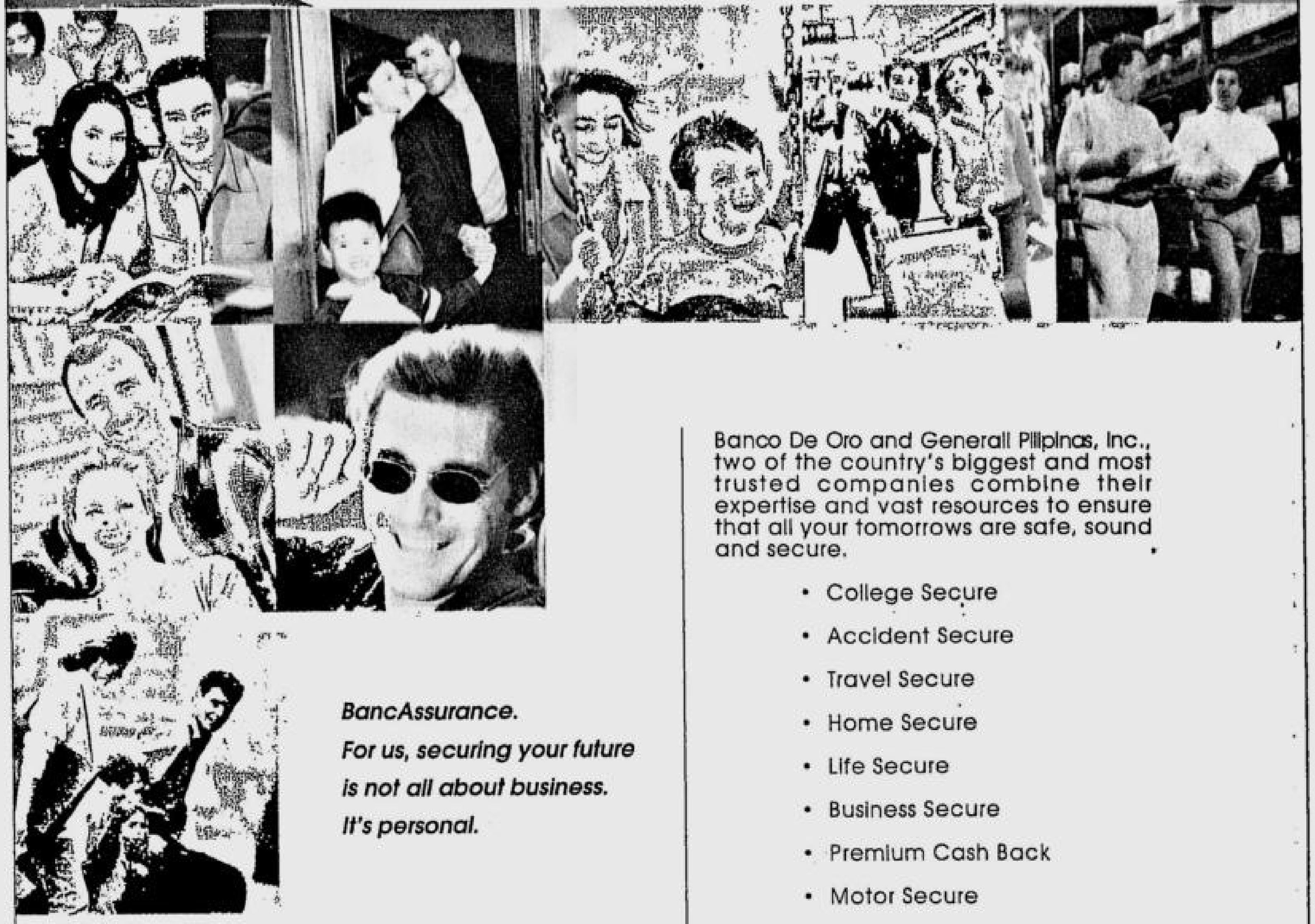

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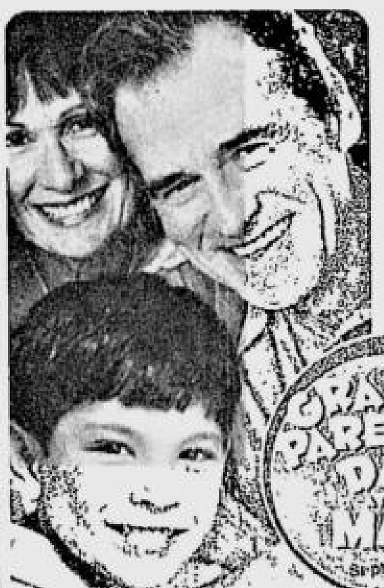

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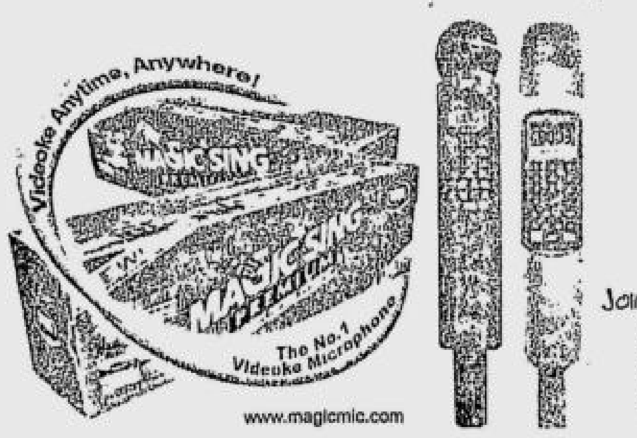

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Mindanao peace, dev't hinge on Moro women, says Albert

By Jerome Aning

"AS THE wellspring of peace in the household, a woman is also the guardian of peace in society. A woman's experience and success in negotiations becomes the unifying force for peace."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert made the observation when she presided over a three-day gathering of Moro women leaders and Mindanao organizations in Marawi City last week.

The conference-workshop tackled Muslim women's role in peace-building and development. Albert said Muslim women could be the paragons for peaceful change, like President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino, and have an important role to play in the future of strife-torn Mindanao.

"Women in the Philippines have always played a pivotal and crucial role in our everyday life. However, by engaging them more in projects and programs that empower them, allowing them to take charge of their lives, and promoting ways to serve interests to develop themselves, we make them actively participate in nation-building," she said.

Albert, the Philippines' and Southeast Asia's first woman foreign secretary, reminded Muslim women that they are exhorted by Islam to pursue education. Thus, she said, they are encouraged to seek knowledge to better their lives in order to be well-trained and competent in whatever endeavor they may choose to venture into, be it in government or the private sector.

Muslim women could do much to help eradicate poverty in Mindanao, she said.

There could be no discussion of peace and economic growth on the island without the involvement of its women and, therefore, their voices must be heard in matters of governance and development, she added.

Albert also encouraged the promotion of women's studies so that women could actively contribute in solving the problems that pervade Mindanao society, such as drug addiction, high infant mortality, poor health, illiteracy and environmental degradation.

The gathering was co-organized by the foreign affairs and social welfare departments and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Among those in attendance were USAID's Dr. Michael Yates, Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma, UN Development Program's Deborah Landey, presidential adviser on education Mona Valisno, National Anti-Poverty Commission chair Veronica Villavicencio, Amina Rasul-Bernardo, Marietta Goco and Ambassador Erlinda Basilio of the Foreign Service Institute.

The Mindanao Women's League, Millennium Women for Peace and Development, the Philippine Women's University Alumni Association's Marawi and Lanao del Sur chapters, and the Mindanao State University's Center for Women's Studies also took part in the conference.

DDB union bats for Calida

PERSONNEL of the Dangerous Drugs Board yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to retain former Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida as the board's executive director, as they expressed apprehension over reports that a politician was set to take over the helm of the agency.

In a press conference, the DDB Employees Union said Calida had performed well as the board's executive director and should be promoted to chairman.

"It is about time that the President promoted Calida to the rank of a full-fledged secretary by appointing him DDB chair because of his worthwhile achievements," said DDB Employees Union president Norma Lacaba.

Lacaba said they had been hearing reports that a former senator was eyeing Calida's job.

"We do not need politicians, otherwise the board's function would be compromised," said one irate male employee who declined to be named.

Other employees expressed the fear that Calida could fall victim to the ongoing power play in Malacañang as the President revamps her Cabinet.

They noted that it was during Calida's term that the DDB became a very active partner of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the government's war against illegal drugs.

Since Calida took over the DDB helm early this year, they noted that positive policy changes and recommendations had "come out streaming" from the executive director's office.

"There were many changes and the DDB has been actively involved in policy-making since he became our boss," one employee said.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, in a letter dated July 6, asked President Arroyo to appoint Calida DDB chair.

Cuenco, head of the House oversight committee on dangerous drugs, said the committee took note of Calida's "invaluable contribution in preparing the board towards the fulfillment of its mission, vision and goal of achieving a drug-free Philippines.

The INQUIRER contacted Calida but he declined to comment, saying it was the President's prerogative to remove or retain him at his post.

Nelson Flores

Reyes orders raps filed vs 'salvage' cops

By Nelson F. Flores

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday ordered the filing of criminal and administrative charges against four policemen allegedly caught in the act of dumping the body of a "salvage" victim in an isolated barangay in Calamba City on Friday.

Reyes issued the order shortly after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a thorough investigation of the policemen who were believed to be involved in summary executions or "salvagings."

Reyes ordered the National Police Commission to conduct a thorough investigation and start summary dismissal proceedings against the four law enforcers.

"Leave no stone unturned and if the evidence warrants it, file the appropriate administrative and criminal charges against them. It is high time that we got rid of policemen whose nefarious activities taint the image of the Philippine National Police," Reyes said.

The four policemen identified as PO2 Cenon Carolino of the Makati police, SPO1 Rommel Marquita, PO1 Reynaldo Coronel and PO2 Marcelino Taduyo of the Pasay City police and civilian Pablito Carolino were caught by Calamba City policemen while they were about to dispose of the body of one Gilbert Garcia in a dimly lighted portion of Barangay Barandal in Calamba.

Local police investigators said the victim was killed because he was reportedly responsible for the 2001 slaying of PO1 Jesus Tatel of the Pasay City police force. The suspects, however, refused to make any public statement on the matter.

Garcia was said to be a nephew of actor Eddie Garcia but this has not been confirmed.

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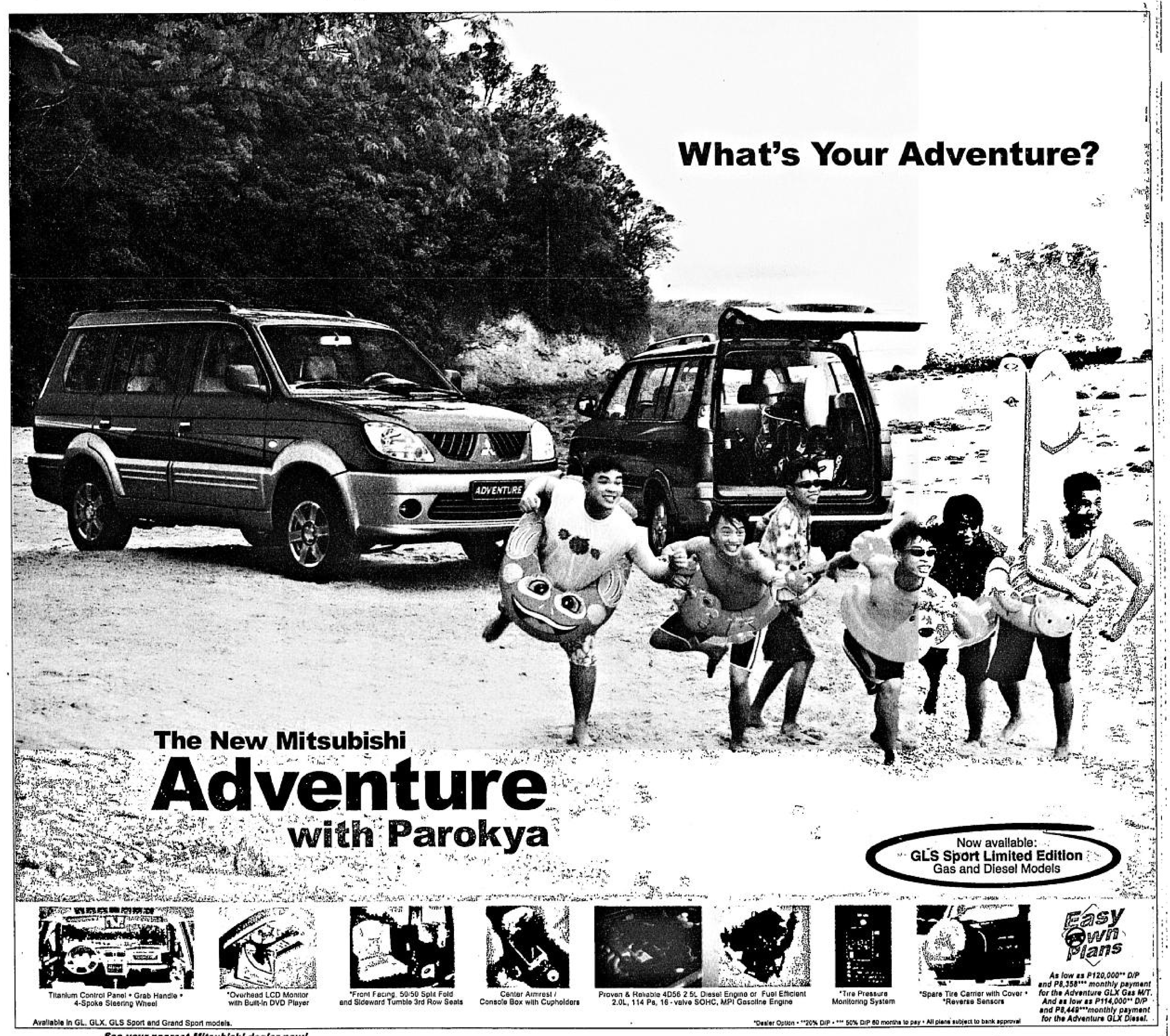

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Priests' Day on Wednesday to recall patron saint of clergy

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Some 8,000 members of the Roman Catholic clergy all over the country will celebrate Priests' Day on Wednesday, in time for the memorial of St. John Maria Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

In the diocese of San Pablo, Laguna, alone more than 150 diocesan and religious priests will be treated to various separate programs and presentations by parishioners and schools run by members of religious orders.

St. John Vianney of Dardilly, France, was born of poor parents on May 8, 1786.

After his ordination in 1815, John Vianney was made the parish priest of Ars, a remote village of 230 people.

"He led a life of extreme mortification, and many times he himself did the penance given to his penitents. His reputation as a confessor, supported by his power to read souls, attracted countless crowds," according to the book "A Year with the Saints."

The same book says: "In 1852, when he was made monsignor, he sold the cap and cloak and gave the proceeds to the poor. John Vianney died in 1859, but remains to this day the model for all parochial clergy."

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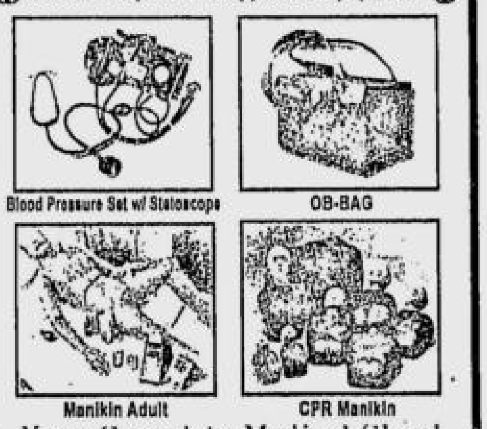

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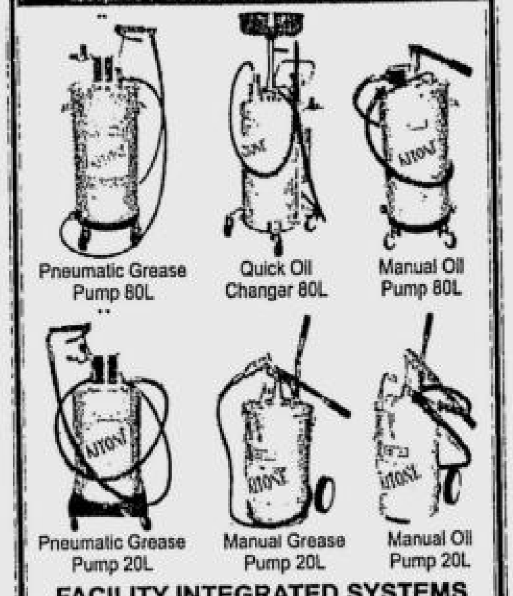

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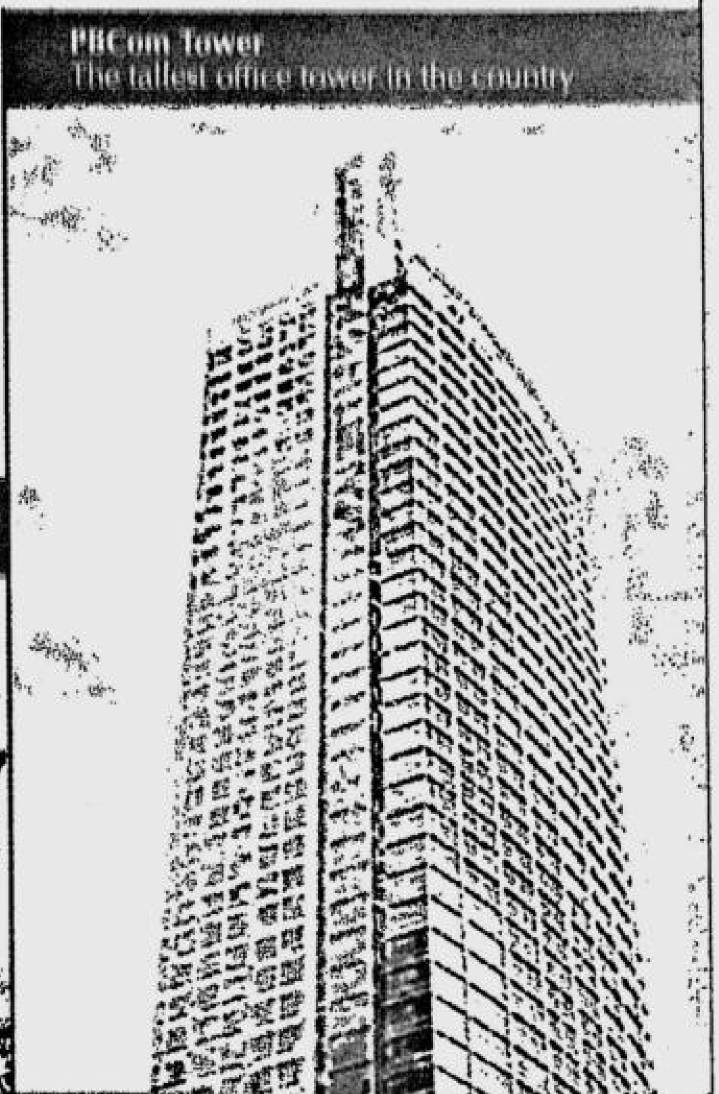
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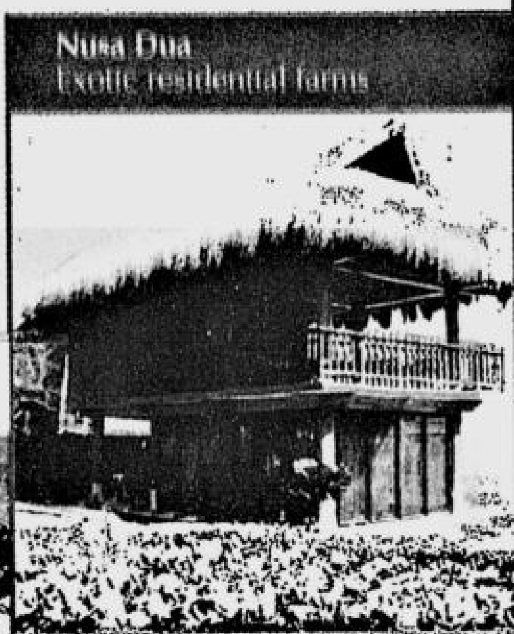
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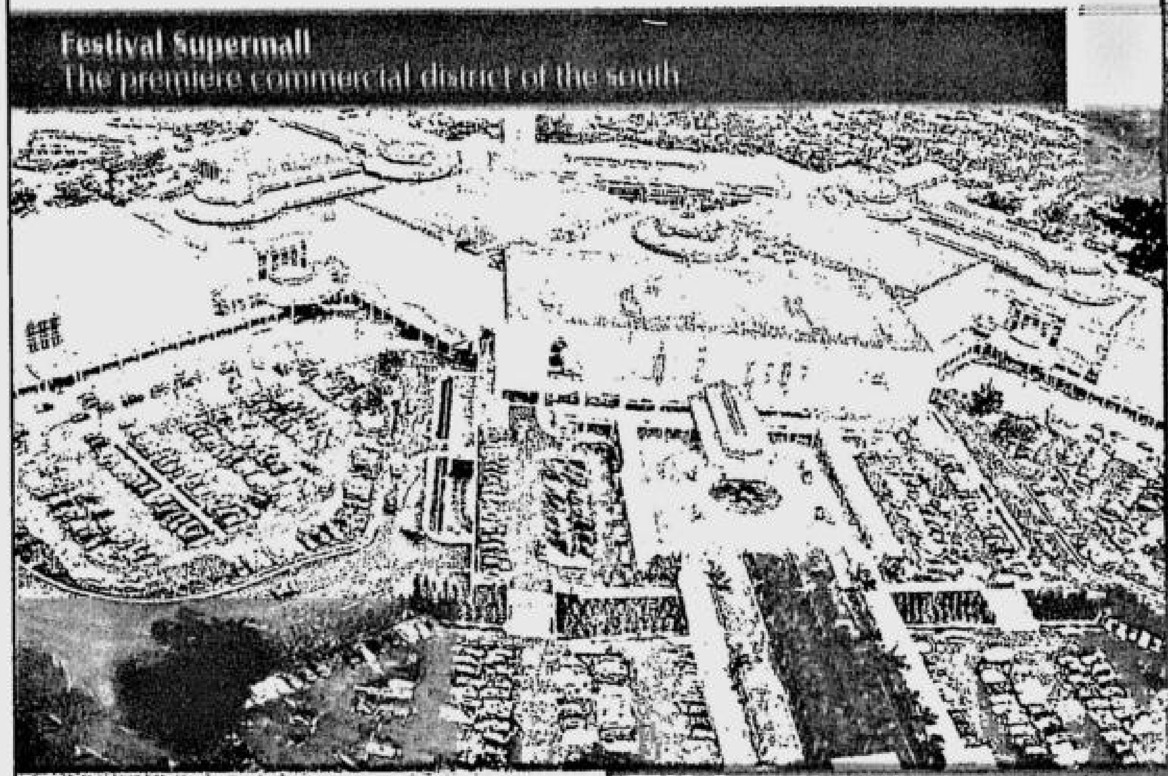
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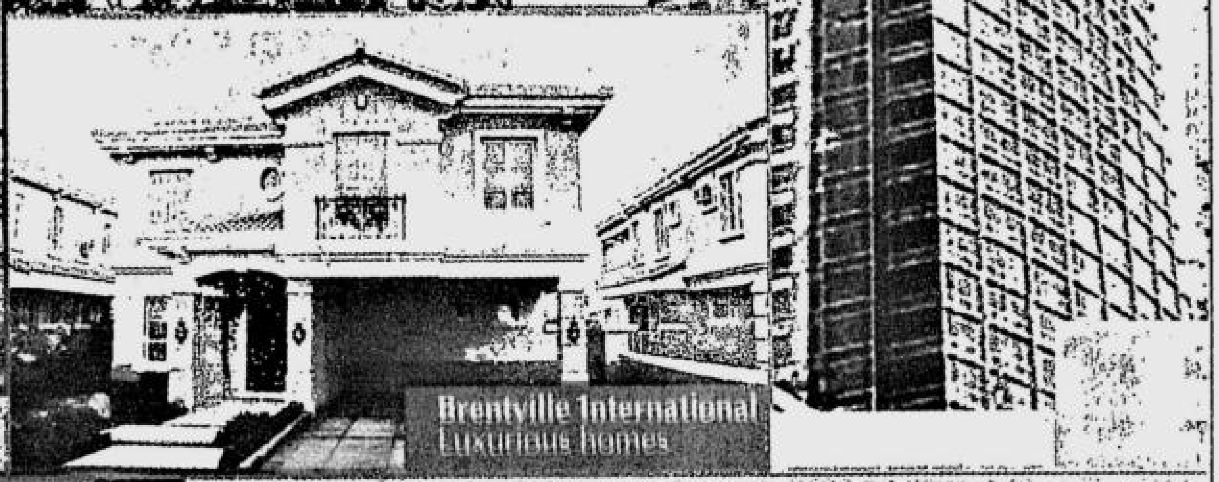
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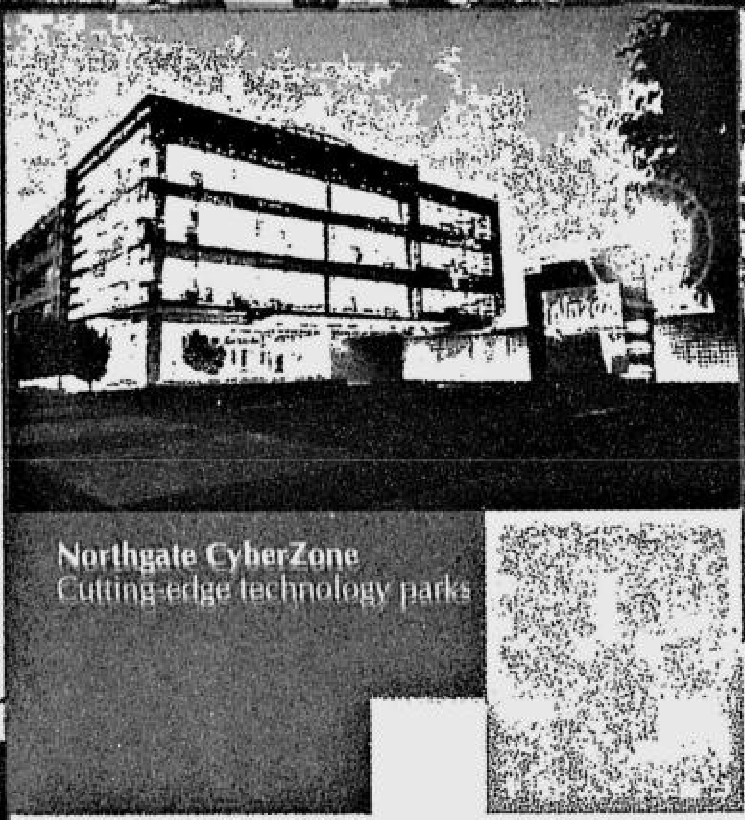
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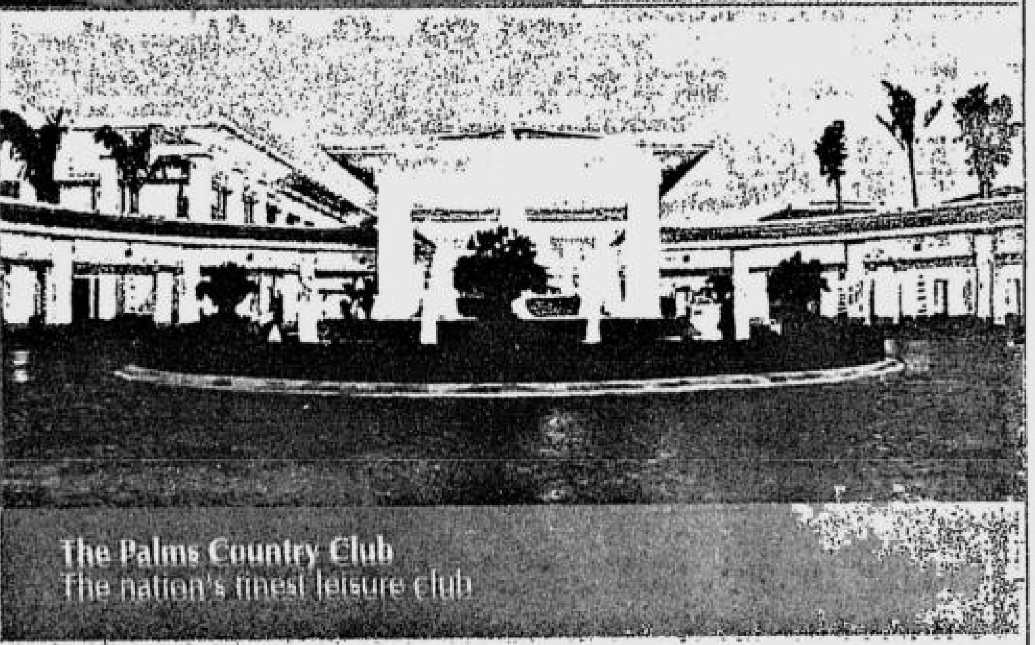
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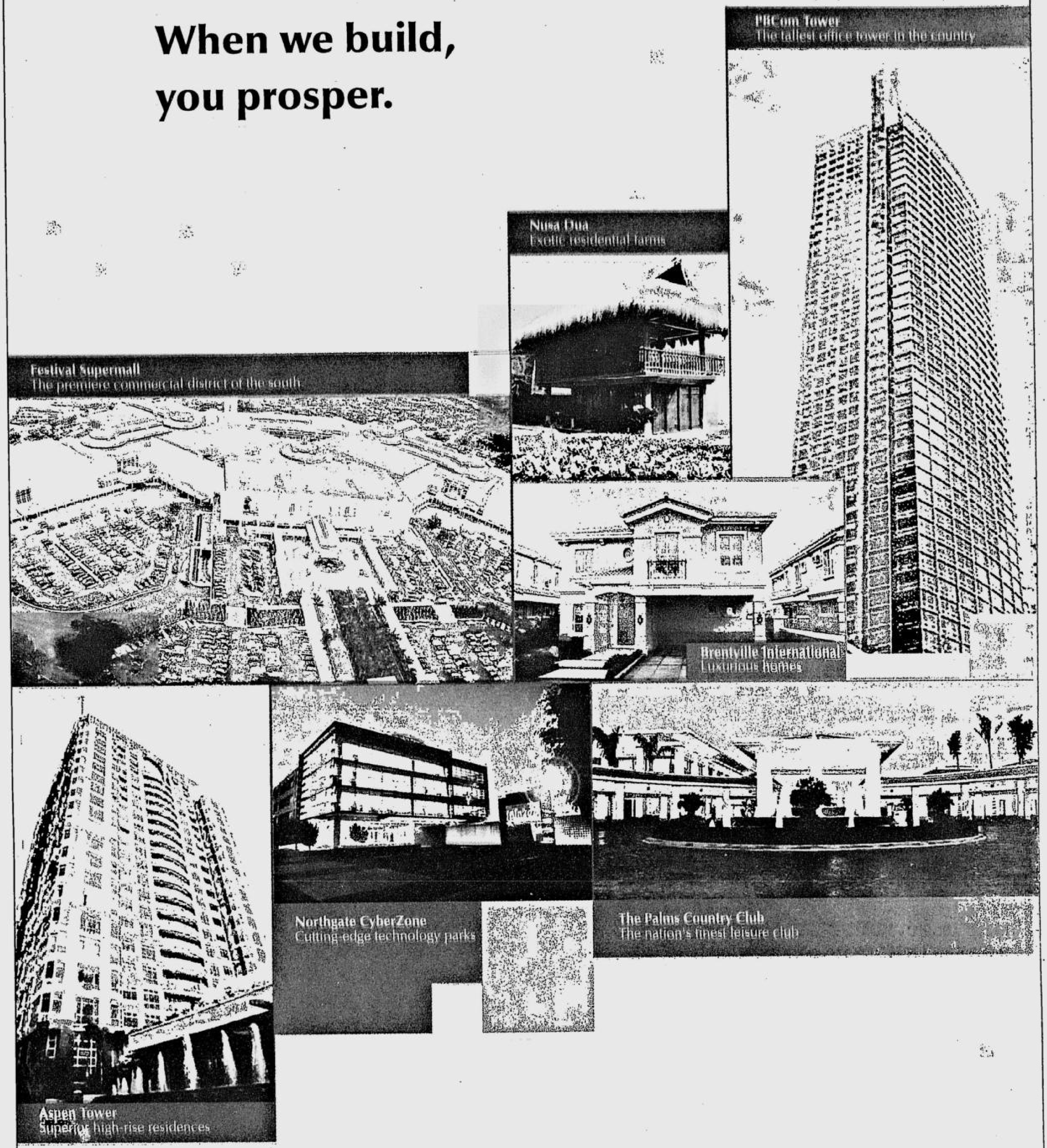

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Marikina, Pasig, Davao 'top business attractions'

From page A1

The low cost of doing business and an approachable local government in these cities proved most attractive to businessmen, who were polled by the AIM Policy Center in the first half of 2003, AIM professor Ramon Abracosa said.

The most competitive mid-sized cities last year were led by Bacolod, San Fernando in Pampanga and Cagayan de Oro. General Santos ranked fifth, while Baguio, which used to rank third from 2001 to 2002, dropped to No. 7 among 13 cities.

Koronadal, San Fernando in La Union and Tagaytay were listed among the top competitive small cities.

AIM has been studying the competitive edge of economies in metropolitan, mid-sized and small cities in the Philippines since 1999 to complement the annual World Competitiveness Survey, where the Philippines placed among the lowest of 60 countries covered by the survey.

Global trade, technology

Abracosa told Baguio-based businessmen and members of the academe on Friday that global trade and swiftly evolving technology had rapidly altered the face of local economies.

Cities with little provision for adapting to change appeared to have suffered the most from the evolving trade environment, said Carmelita Usman, Benguet director of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Baguio proved inhospitable to large-scale investors, such as Camp John Hay Development Corp. and Shoemart Investment Corp., when local businessmen and residents reacted hysterically to their entry, a former city official said.

It was also the least prepared when four telecommunications groups, led by the American firm Client Logic, indicated their interest in developing the city as an alternative call center site.

To their dismay, the firms found that the city telecommunications infrastructure did not include fiber optic technology, which is necessary for high-speed transmission of huge volumes of voice and data, according to Usman.

Client Logic also had problems getting a workforce with a good command of English, puncturing the city's reputation as an education center and as an English-speaking community, she said.

AIM originally evaluated 10 major cities in the country, including Baguio, in 2001. But it expanded the survey to 33 cities for the 2002 competitiveness report, and to 50 cities for the 2003 report.

Nurturing SMEs

Abracosa said the key strength of the top competitive cities lay in the low cost of doing business, combined with a broad market base and their proximity to markets. These are conditions that help nurture and expand small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) for the local economies, he said.

The AIM professor said Marikina's "visionary" governance and public relations savvy propelled the city to the top of the list. Pasig also made the list because of its reliable transportation sector and efficient power and water systems.

These cities have become secondary markets for the metropolitan centers, have ready access to manpower, are benefited by "robust tourism" and are governed by "transparent and accountable leaders," Abracosa said.

Among the mid-sized cities, Cagayan de Oro, "the gateway to Northern Mindanao," sustained a dynamic economy by investing in heavy infrastructure development.

Businessmen in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga found its proximity to the North Luzon Expressway a distinct business advantage, while businessmen in Bacolod responded well to a local government that gave priority to SMEs, Abracosa said.

Tagaytay rivals Baguio as the country's top tourist destination. But according to the AIM survey, even this small city in Cavite has exceeded Baguio's tourism arrivals, which is why it topped the small cities list.

Education

It was the abundance of education facilities in San Fernando City in La Union which gave it the edge over the Baguio economy, Abracosa said.

Baguio's reliance on its 32 vocational schools and five educational institutions underestimated the expansion of education in San Fernando, making the city in La Union a new center for developing skilled workers, said Reynaldo Bautista, dean of the college of accountancy at Saint Louis University (SLU). SLU is a partner institution of the AIM project.

Koronadal's economic strength is its efficient local government, active transportation system and highly adaptable labor force, Abracosa said.

He said the least competitive cities of the year failed because their local governments were unresponsive to business.

Based on AIM's survey of business perceptions in Baguio, Bautista said local entrepreneurs believed that the last city administration was "vulnerable to corruption," had an inefficient licensing and trade regulation system, and was hostile to new business ventures in general.

These perceptions, he said, affected Baguio's usual advantages, such as a cool climate and a relatively good peace and order situation.

Metro Cebu impresses Taiwan business group

CEBU CITY—Some 100 visiting officials and businessmen from Taiwan have found Metro Cebu attractive for investment.

Wu Hsin Hsing of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, who led the delegation, said they were impressed by the infrastructure facilities and the peace and order situation in Cebu.

"So far, we found your infrastructure better than Subic and your peace and order better than Manila," Wu told reporters on Friday at the City Hall after they paid a courtesy call on Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

He vowed to promote Cebu in Taiwan as an ideal investment and tourism site.

Wu said they could bring in more investors from Taiwan after what they had seen in Cebu—from the airport, seaports to the special economic zones.

The group also visited the different tourist destinations in Cebu, especially the beach resorts. "We will try to know more of your business climate and your tourist attractions here," Wu said.

Cebu would most likely attract investments from Taiwanese companies engaged in information technology (IT), he said, noting the province's "quality" labor force, with people who know how to speak English.

Osmeña stressed the need to further improve the economic cooperation between Cebu and Taiwan. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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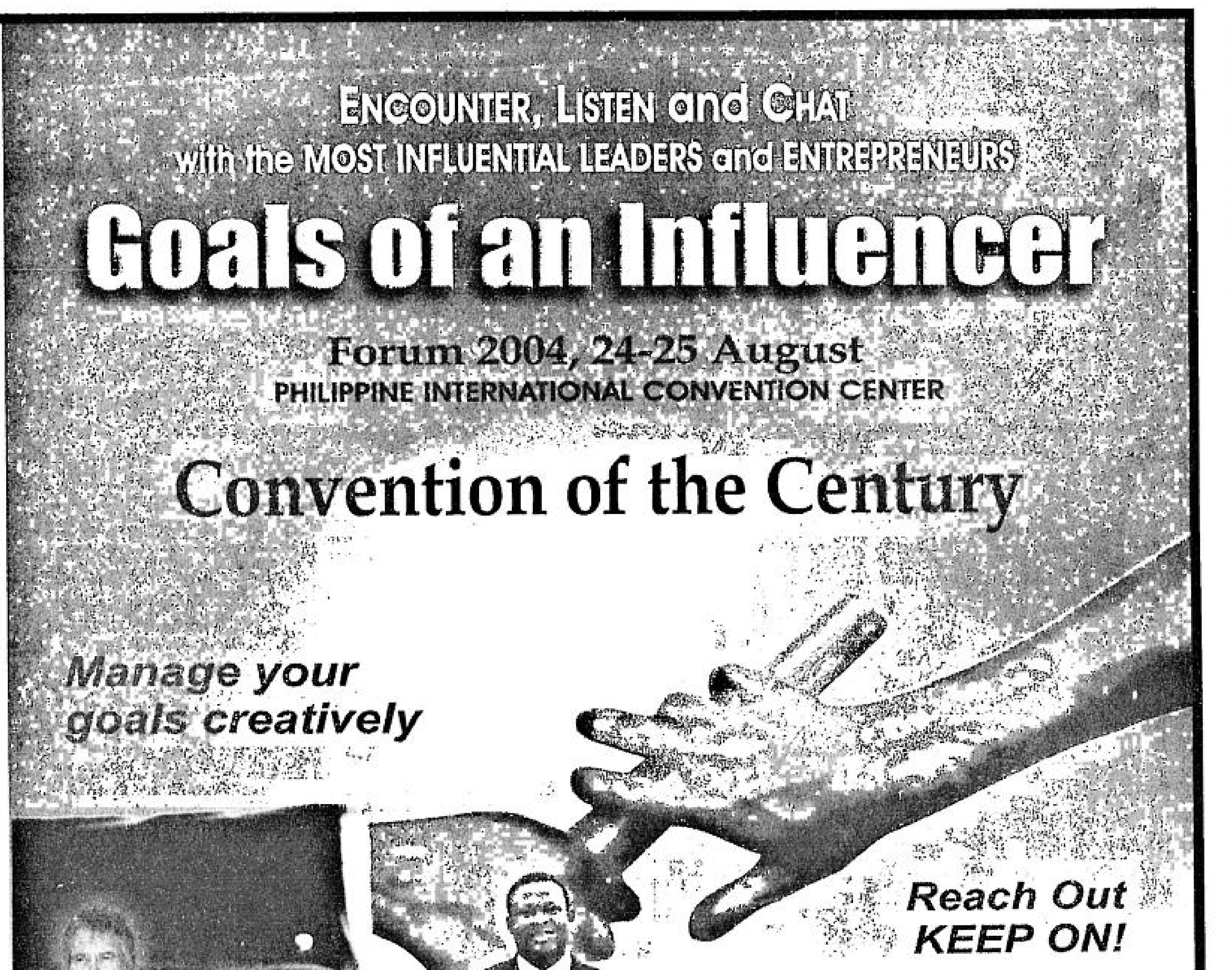

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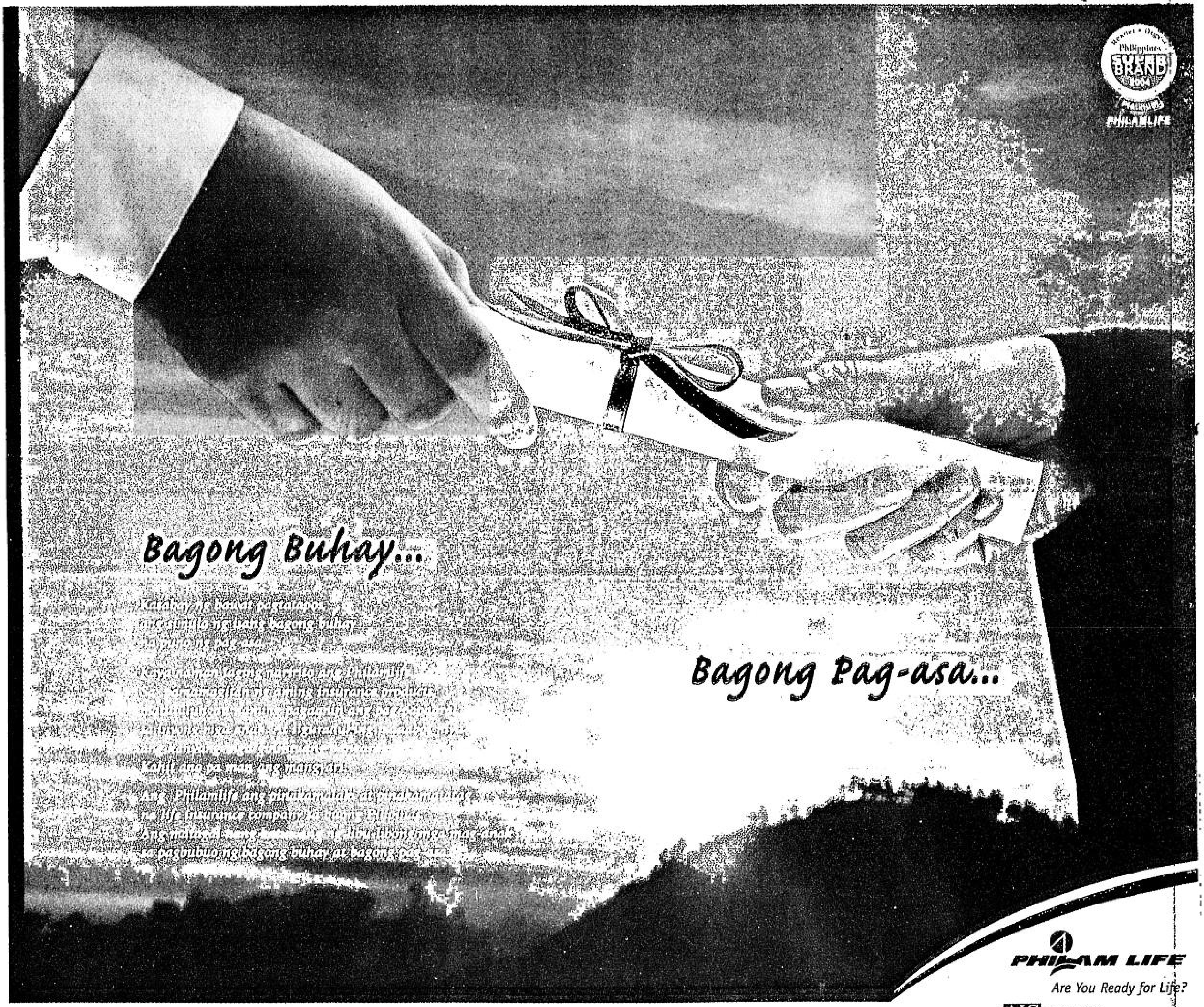

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Nations agree to slash farm subsidies

GENEVA—Rich and poor nations struck a historic deal on Sunday to slash billions of dollars in farm subsidies, create more open industrial markets and revive stalled world trade talks that could boost global growth.

After five days of wrangling, the World Trade Organization's 147 member states formally agreed on a framework that lays down the guidelines for its Doha Round, which has been in trouble since the collapse of talks almost a year ago in Cancun, Mexico.

"This is a historic moment for this organization," WTO chief Supachai Panitchpakdi told a news conference after the formal adoption of the agreement at a late-night session of trade negotiators at the WTO's headquarters.

The hard-won deal on a series of contentious trade issues, from farm reform to the launch of negotiations on a new customs code, puts the Doha Round firmly back on track, officials said.

Rich nations welcomed the deal, which commits them to a plan to cut back on the huge subsidies they lavish on farmers and give developed nations better access to world markets.

"The Doha Round is back on track. The results are good for the EU and good for developing countries," European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy told reporters. He added the Doha Round might now be completed by the end of next year.

United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick called the accord a "crucial step for global trade."

"Tonight, 147 economies have ensured that 2004 will go down as a productive year for the Doha trade negotiations. There's a lot of work yet to be done. But today's framework is a milestone," he said in a statement released in Washington.

After an all-night negotiating marathon, key WTO members, including the United States, the EU and Brazil and Japan, on Saturday had agreed to the elimination of export subsidies at a date yet to be set—long a key developing country demand—to limit other subsidies, and to lower tariff barriers.

Agreement in the sensitive field of agriculture opened the way for a similar accord in industrial goods trade and development issues, areas in which the WTO sought a framework accord to serve as a basis for future more detailed negotiations under the auspices of the Doha Round.

The World Bank says the round could help lift more than half a billion people out of poverty through increased trade, and boosting growth by injecting billions of dollars into the world economy.

A delegate from Mauritius, which has taken a leading part in the WTO talks on behalf of African nations, said the so-called Group of 90 developing countries could also live with the text even if it did not get everything it wanted.

Failure in Geneva could have delayed further trade liberalization for years. *Reuters*

Suicide bomber kills 5, hurts 50 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle outside a police station in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, killing at least five people and wounding 50, police and doctors said.

Witnesses said the Toyota Land Cruiser raced towards a police checkpoint as guards screamed at the driver to stop. When he did not, they opened fire, killing him, but the car ploughed on and detonated about 20 meters from the police station.

"I was waiting for a taxi when the car approached at high speed," said witness Younis al-Hadidi, 32. "It blew up in the middle of everyone."

A police lieutenant said the five killed were police officers and the wounded were a mix of civilians and police.

Doctors said they expected the death toll to rise and said many of the 50 wounded were badly hurt.

The bombing came four days after a similar attack outside a police recruiting center in the town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, killed 70 people. Police are frequently targeted by militants who regarded them as collaborators with US forces.

Sunday's attack followed another night of clashes between US forces and guerrillas in the rebellious city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, in which at least 10 Iraqis died and 35 were wounded, a doctor at the main hospital said.

On Saturday, militants purportedly led by Zarqawi said they had kidnapped two truck drivers and would behead them in 48 hours unless their Turkish company quit the country.

The kidnapping was the latest in a growing wave of hostage-taking that has hit Iraq since April as guerrillas wage a campaign to undermine US-led forces and Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's interim government.

Al-Jazeera television screened a video tape showing the two drivers in front of a group of masked gunmen and said the militants had vowed to behead the hostages unless their firm stopped supplying the US military in Iraq and quit the country completely. *Reuters*

Uzbek president blames Islamist group for blasts

TASHKENT—Uzbek President Islam Karimov on Saturday blamed followers of a banned Islamist movement for this weekend's suicide bomb attacks despite the group's public rejection of violence.

Karimov said Hizb ut-Tahrir must bear primary responsibility both for Friday's blasts at the Israeli and US embassies and the general prosecutor's office that killed at least three and a wave of violence in March that left 47 dead.

"The same group carried out the March explosions as yesterday's explosions and they base their ideas on Hizb ut-Tahrir's teaching... Hizb ut-Tahrir made the biggest contribution to that terror," Karimov told public television.

Hizb ut-Tahrir seeks the establishment of an Islamic state in Central Asia.

All three people killed in the latest attacks in the Uzbek capital were members of the Uzbek security forces who had been guarding the buildings, officials said:

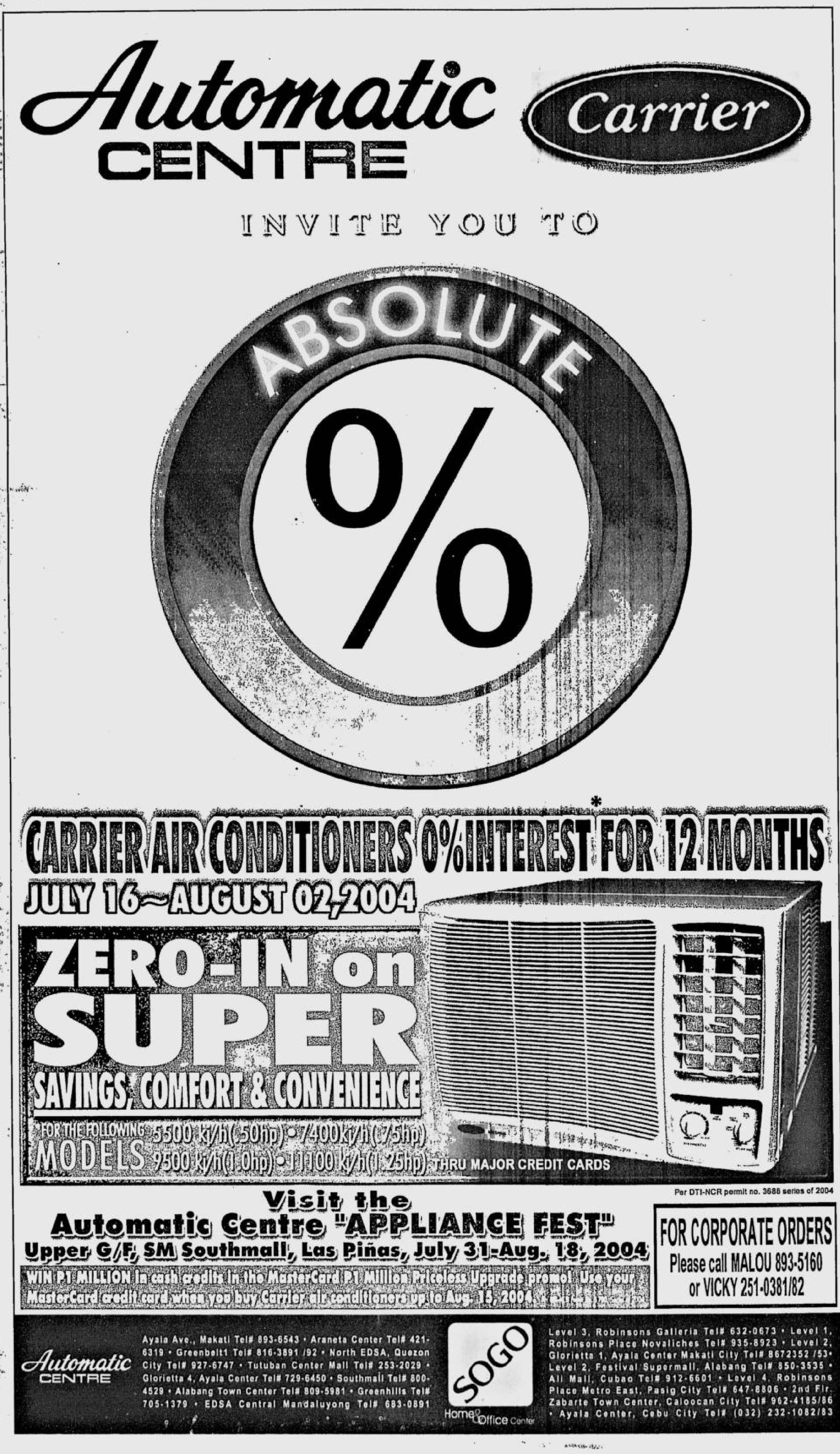
Eight other people were injured in the blasts—the first such attacks at foreign embassies in Uzbekistan since it broke from Moscow in 1991.

US officials said that none of their staff were hurt.

Many analysts and rights defenders have insisted that they see no direct link between Hizb ut-Tahrir and recent violence in Uzbekistan, as the group has publicly rejected the use of violence.

They say that Karimov's leadership—widely criticized for stamping on all opposition, secular or religious—wants the West to take a tougher line on Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Hizb ut-Tahrir is legal in most Western countries although Germany has imposed a ban due to the group's anti-Semitism. *AFP*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Vatican: Feminism dangerous for family

VATICAN CITY—Modern feminism's fight for power and gender equality is undermining the traditional concept of family and creating a climate where gay marriages are seen as acceptable, the Vatican said on Saturday.

In a 37-page document "On the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World," the Vatican said women should be respected and have equal rights in the workplace, but differences between the sexes must be recognized and exalted.

"Recent years have seen new approaches to women's issues" including a tendency "to emphasize strongly conditions of subordination in order to give rise to antagonism," it said.

The document, which re-stated Catholic Church positions, including the ban on female priests, said that many women felt they had to be "adversaries of men" in order to be themselves.

"Faced with the abuse of power, the answer for women is to seek power. This process leads to opposition between men and women ... which has its most immediate and lethal effects in the structure of the family."

The document is a booklet-letter to bishops by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican department in charge of safeguarding and interpreting doctrine.

It criticizes feminism's attempt to erase gender differences.

This has "inspired ideologies which, for example, call into question the family in its natural two-parent structure of mother and father, and make homosexuality and heterosexuality virtually equivalent, in a new model of polymorphous sexuality," it says.

Pope John Paul has repeatedly defended traditional marriage from the trend toward legalizing same-sex unions in the United States and Europe.

After Massachusetts became in May the first state in America to permit gay marriages, the issue has been hotly debated ahead of US presidential elections.

The document called for greater recognition of a woman's role as a mother and urged society to value it as real work.

But it also said women's access to the workplace and to positions of authority should not be limited.

"Although motherhood is a key element of women's identity, this does not mean that women should be considered from the sole perspective of physical procreation," it said.

The Vatican said women who choose to be full-time mothers should not be stigmatized, but at the same time, it appealed to governments to make it easier for mothers to hold outside jobs without "relinquishing their family life."

In the introduction, Ratzinger says the letter is meant "as a starting point for further examination in the Church, as well as an impetus for dialogue."

Reuters

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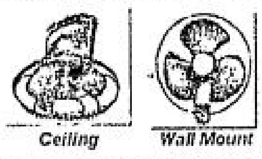
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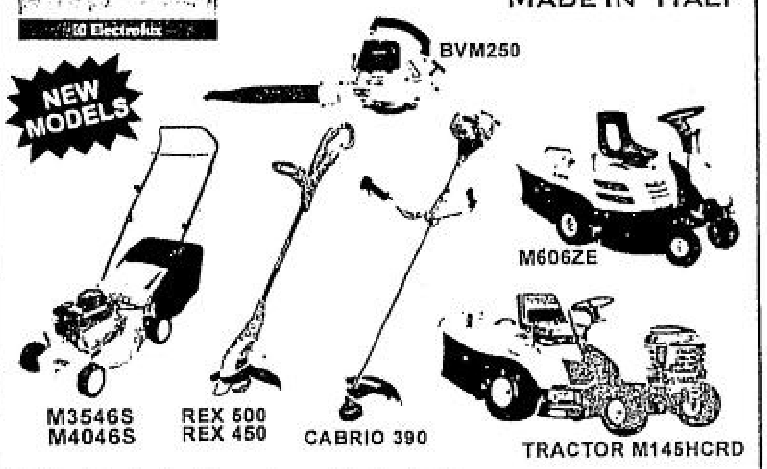
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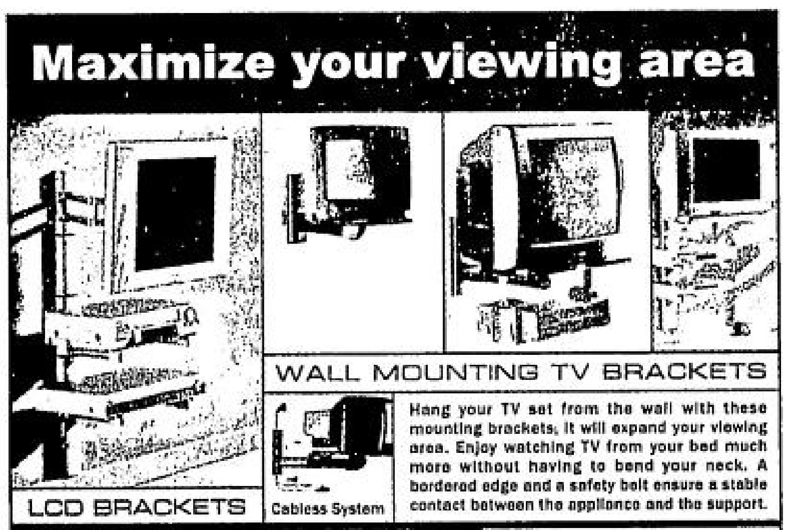

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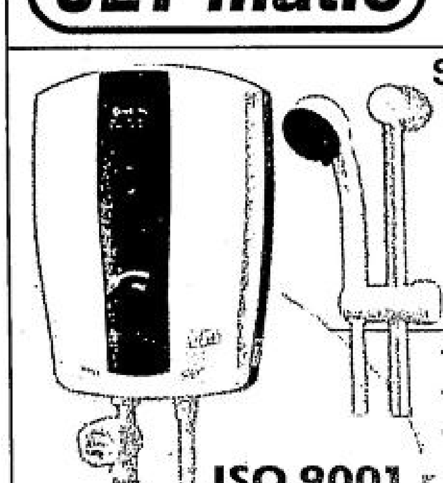
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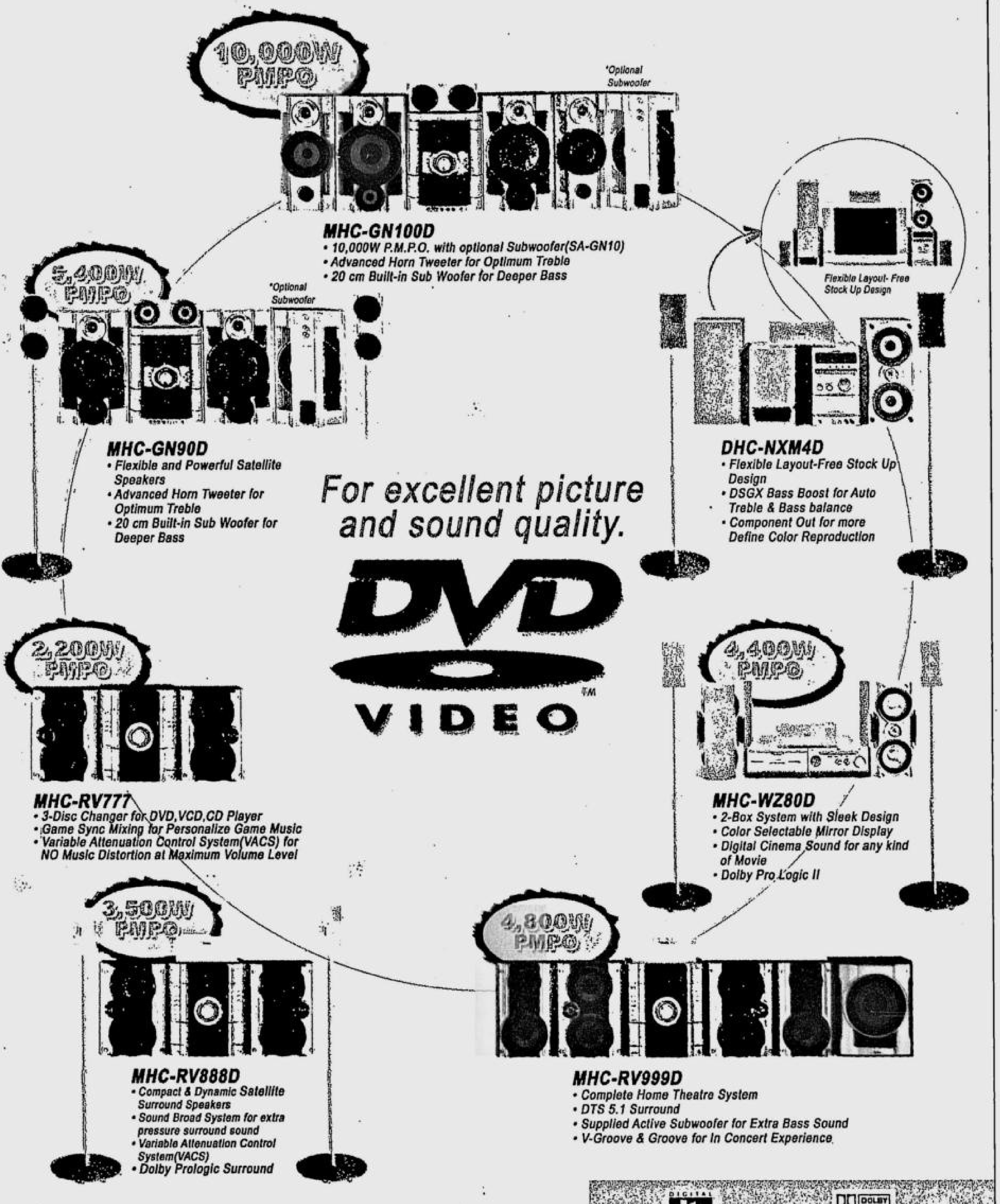

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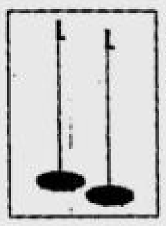

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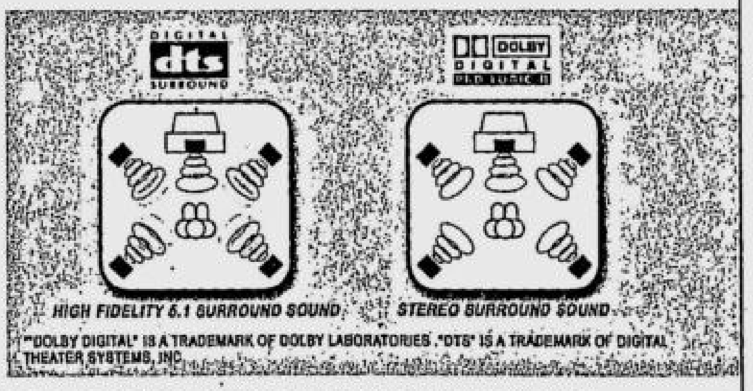

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Gospel:	Mt 14:13-21

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Late in the afternoon, his disciples came to him and said, "We are in a lonely place and it is now late. You should send these people away, so they can go to the villages and buy something for themselves to eat."

But Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat." They answered, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes." Jesus said to them, "Bring them here to me."

Then he made everyone sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, raised his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to the disciples to distribute to the people. And they all ate, and everyone had enough; then the disciples gathered up the leftovers, filling twelve baskets. About five thousand men had eaten there besides women and children.

Commentary

This account of the feeding of the multitudes has strong echoes of the Exodus event which took place more than twelve centuries before. "The Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day'" (16:14). There are many points of convergence. Even the wording is the same in places, "they all ate and were filled." Both events happen in "a deserted place." "Five thousand men, besides women and children" was a typical style of counting the people in the wilderness (see Ex 12:37; Num 11:21).

In turn, both stories carry echoes of the "messianic banquet." This was the imagined absolute future in which God would be all in all. God would prepare on Mount Zion a banquet for all the redeemed (see Is 25:6).

Jesus uses this image to describe the beatitude of heaven (Mt 8:11). The Last Supper is presented as a messianic banquet in anticipation (see Mt 26:29; Lk 22:16, 18, 29). Our Eucharist retains this theme.

Thus, everything in the Faith echoes everything else. It is a living body, not a loose collection of thoughts. On the negative side, this means that if you throw away one part, you are in a sense throwing away the whole thing. But on the positive side, if you have any part of it you have the whole. That's a hard one to work out, but go ahead!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—Aggravating circumstances of victim's age applicable only in crimes against persons and honor—Robbery with homicide is essentially a felony against property. The aggravating circumstance of disregard of the victim's age is applied only to crimes against persons and honor. The bare fact that the victim is a woman does not per se constitute disregard of sex. For this circumstance to be properly considered, the prosecution must adduce evidence that in the commission of the crime, the accused had particularly intended to insult or commit disrespect to the sex of the victim. In this case, the appellant killed the victim because the latter started to shout. There was no intent to insult nor commit disrespect to the victim on account of the latter's sex. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Callejo, Sr., People vs Reyes, G.R. No. 153119. April 13, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

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) UN, vows to disarm Darfur militias

JM—Sudan said to disarm Darfur required by a UN threatening but the justice autioned on Sat- eting the dead- e "extremely dif-

ternational pres- nting and France ig it would rede- iers in Chad to aid and security ate refugees, Su- inisters will meet y to formulate a o the UN vote.

rst dismissing the as "misguided" nment on Satur- it would try to

is not happy with Security Council , but we will ith it to the best of ," Osman Al Said, mbassador to the nion, told a news e in Ethiopia.

Security Council US-drafted resolu- iday which threat- n with sanctions in f it failed to stop attacks and bring stice.

Justice Minister hamed Osman d in a statement Khartoum that vould not be easy. ning the armed within the speci- period will be ex- ifficult to achieve of the efforts be- ed by the govern- said.

cretary of State ell, during a stop , urged Khartoum to meet UN demands.

"I hope the Sudanese government will use the time provided in the resolution to do everything it can to bring the Janjaweed under control," he told reporters.

Some experts have questioned whether the government in Khartoum could control the Janjaweed if it wanted to.

The United Nations estimates at least 30,000 people have been killed and more than a million others displaced since rebels in Darfur launched an offensive against the government that was repelled by Arab "Janjaweed" militia.

The Janjaweed's campaign of murder, rape, razing of villages and burning of crops has largely targeted non-Arab farmers and resulted in what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis and what the US Congress has labeled genocide.

An estimated 1.2 million people have fled the fighting, many into neighboring Chad where squalid refugee camps bulge with Sudanese too frightened to return home.

French President Jacques Chirac said some 200 of the country's 450 troops in its former colony Chad would be redeployed to help deliver humanitarian supplies and ensure security for refugees.

He said France would also make several aircraft available. A Defense Ministry spokesperson said Paris did not intend to send any additional troops to Chad.

A team of EU civil and military experts is to go to Darfur on Tuesday to assess how they can support an African Union (AU) mission to western Sudan, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

The AU has 96 military observers monitoring an April ceasefire between the Sudanese government and rebel groups. It also plans to send 270 troops, mainly from Nigeria, South Africa and Rwanda. *Reuters*

oy says Sept. 11 el cleared Riyadh

. 11 Commission has cleared Saudi Arabia of in- t in the 2001 attacks on the United States, ac- Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Bandar bin

/11 Commission has confirmed what we have ng all along. The clear statements by this inde- bipartisan commission have debunked the t have cast fear and doubt over Saudi Arabia," was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Embassy in Manila.

tement said that the Sept. 11 Commission con- t it had found no evidence that the government Arabia funded al-Qaida. The panel also con- t it had found no evidence that the Sept. 11 hi- ceived funding from Saudi citizen Omar Al-Bay- from Princess Haifa Al-Faisal, wife of Ambas- he United States Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the further noted.

tement quoted the commission as saying, "... we d no evidence that the Saudi government as an or senior Saudi officials individually funded ization."

ve found no evidence that Saudi Princess Haifa provided any funds to the conspiracy, either di- ndirectly."

gh there was some initial suspicion of Saudi citi- youmi and his contact with two of the Sept. 11 the statement quoted the panel as saying: e seen no credible evidence that he believed in tremism or knowingly aided extremist groups. tigators who have dealt directly with him and is background find him to be an unlikely candi- landestine involvement with Islamist extremists r then nor later did Bayoumi give money to ei- i or Mihdhar."

tement also said Saudi flights were investigated led professionally.

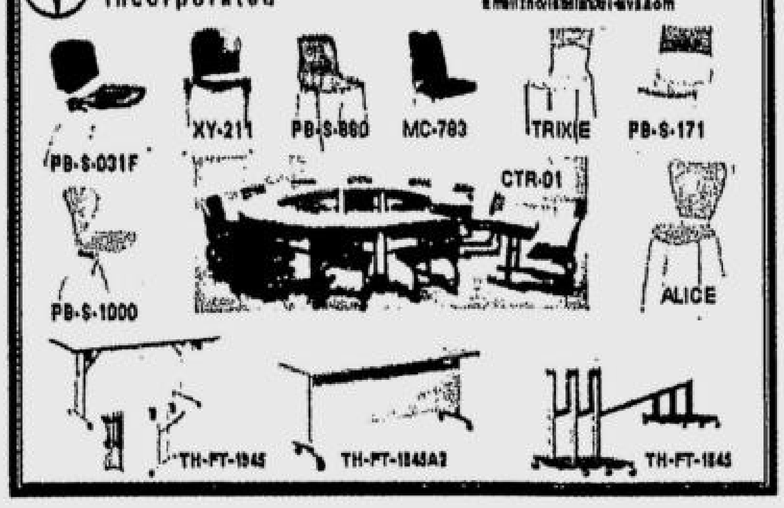
hat despite accusations by Craig Unger, Michael d others, the post Sept. 11 flights that repatriat- citizens, including members of the Bin Laden ere investigated by the FBI and "no one with ks to terrorism departed on these flights."

d the commission as saying: "First, we found no that any flights of Saudi nationals, domestic or nal, took place before the reopening of national n the morning of Sept. 13, 2001. To the con- ry flight we have identified occurred after na- pace reopened."

d, we found no evidence of political interven- ne of the officials we interviewed recalled any on or direction on this matter from any political ."

we believe that the FBI conducted a satisfactory of Saudi nationals who left the United States on ghts. The Saudi government was advised of and the FBI's requirements that passengers be iden- checked against various databases before the parted. The Federal Aviation Administration ative working in the FBI operations center made he FBI was aware of the flights of Saudi nation- vas able to screen the passengers before they wed to depart."

BI interviewed all persons of interest on these ior to their departures. They concluded that e passengers was connected to the 9/11 attacks since found no evidence to change that conclu- own independent review of the Saudi nationals onfirms that no one with known links to terror- ted on these flights."



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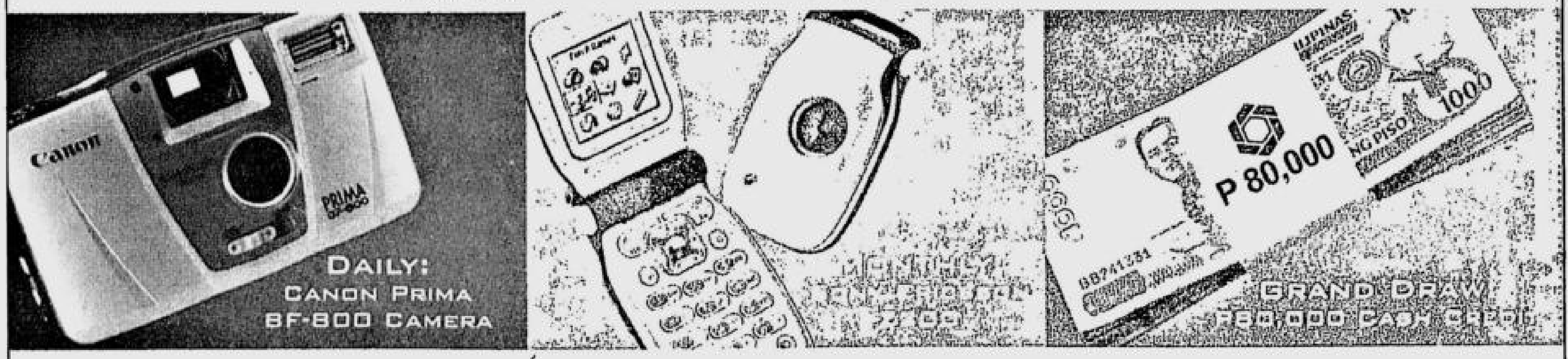

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Cleared?

EDITORIAL

IN RUSHING to judgment on an issue of historic importance, the Department of Justice has committed a grave injustice.

Last Thursday, the Abu Sayyaf's most famous ex-hostage testified at the trial of her alleged kidnappers. But the DOJ prosecutors used Gracia Burnham's three-hour testimony not to follow the kidnapping trail wherever it may lead, but to stop anyone from going farther down that road.

The DOJ used last week's hearing at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to immediately, even eagerly, clear the Armed Forces of allegations that some officers and their men had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang during the ordeal of the Dos Palmas hostages.

Reporters were barred from the hearing, which was attended by extremely tight security because of Burnham's presence. Thus, the news that the missionary, who spent over a year in captivity, had allegedly issued a statement clearing the military came from the DOJ lawyers themselves.

"There was no collusion between the ASG and the military," State Prosecutor Nestor Lazaro quoted Burnham as saying. Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera weighed in with a categorical evaluation: "Her statement in court should put everything—the matter, all doubts—to rest." And Acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said that Burnham's statement, "given under oath and in open court, should clarify any misunderstanding that her book might have created."

If this is the way the government's top lawyers think, then justice in the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings may never be fully served.

In the first place, why did the prosecutors object to the question about collusion? The parties in the hearing, as well as the videotape record, attest to at least one related series of facts: It was the defense counsel (that is, those defending the alleged Abu Sayyaf suspects) who asked Burnham the collusion question last Thursday. The state prosecutors immediately objected to the question, and RTC Judge Lorifel Pahimna sustained the objection.

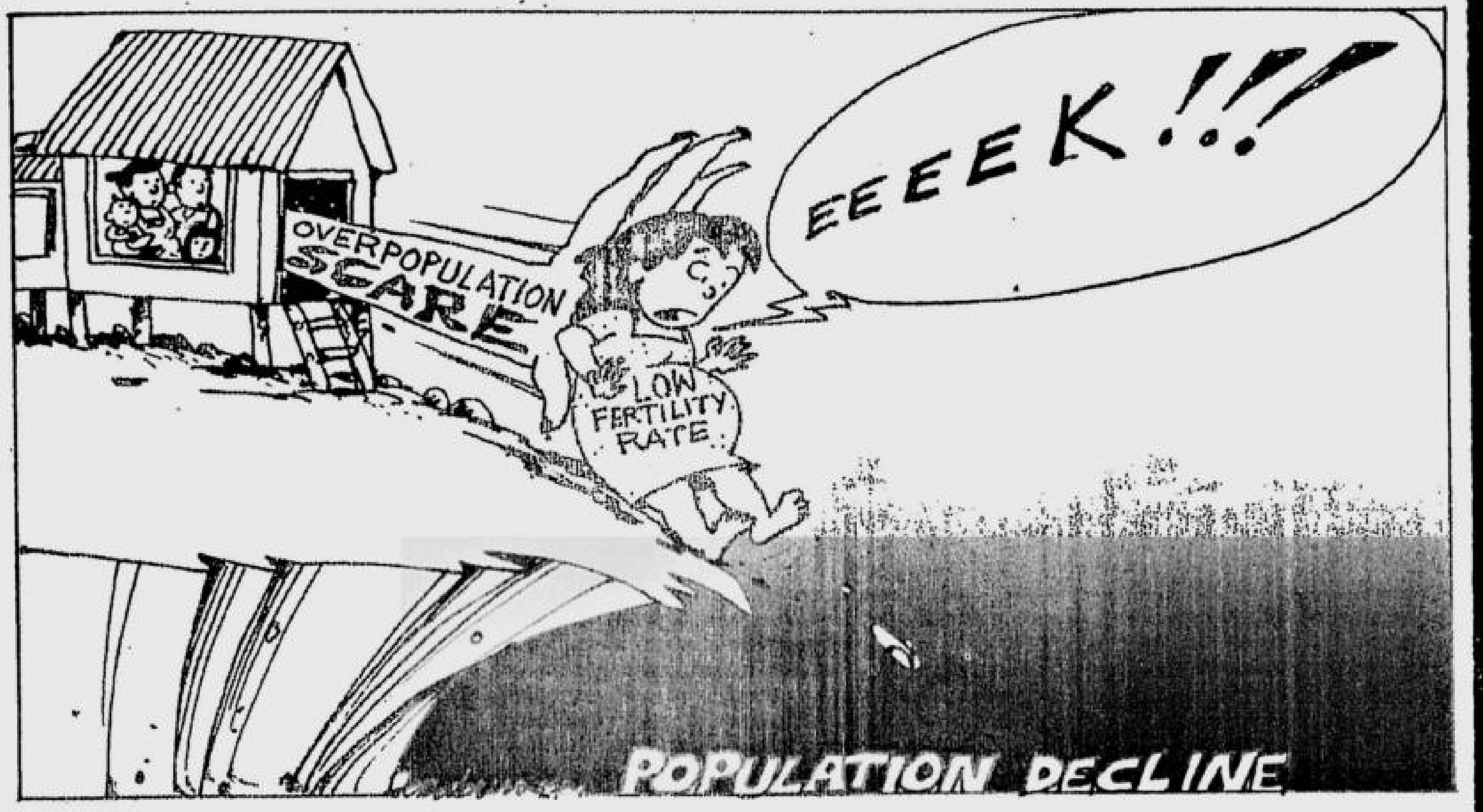
It was during this rapid-fire exchange, the DOJ lawyers said, that Burnham allegedly gave her answer. But the available videotape, seen in the judge's chambers by the enterprising Aladdin Bacolodan of ABS-CBN, shows Burnham keeping silent in the middle of the legal fireworks.

This controversy has obscured an essential, undisputed fact: For some unknown reason, the DOJ lawyers argued that the issue of collusion between the kidnap gang and the military pursuing the kidnappers was irrelevant to the case.

How can the alleged collusion be irrelevant? If some members of the military were in fact complicit, then much about the hostages' ordeal becomes comprehensible. For one thing, collusion helps explain what may well be the military's greatest single failure since the post-Pearl Harbor bombing of Clark Air Base in World War II: the escape of the kidnappers and their victims from the siege of the Lamitan hospital. It helps explain why, as Burnham disclosed in her own book, military forces seemed to have a policy of fighting only by day. "Oddly, the AFP didn't pursue us" after the escape, she wrote: "As time went on, we noticed that they never pursued us"—at night, which is when the bandits and their victims moved about. It also helps explain ex-hostage Reghis Romero's mysterious satellite-phone call soon after his abduction, and his equally mysterious dash to freedom in the middle of the siege.

And how can a single person's testimony put "everything" to rest? There are many other witnesses that the prosecution can put on the witness stand, all of whom will testify what they have heard or personally know of the alleged collusion. For a start, the DOJ can consult the record of the committee hearings in both the Senate and the House, which lists some of these witnesses. And books have been written detailing aspects of the alleged collusion, which date back to long before the Abu Sayyaf raid on the Dos Palmas resort in 2001.

Let us grant that the DOJ prosecutors did hear Burnham say the all-important words. The question is: Why do the prosecutors welcome this as some sort of absolute closure to the collusion issue? It is wishful thinking on their part, revealing only what they want to keep closed.



A birth control pill acceptable to the Church

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE CURRENT debate on defusing the population bomb, I think, is barking up the wrong tree. Whether you limit every couple to only two children or ban the birth of new babies for the next five years, you do not address the real problem. Babies are only the by-product of the problem. Sex is the problem.

Couples make love not because they want to make babies but because having sex is very enjoyable. The key, therefore, is not to prevent babies but to prevent sex. But that would violate the individual's right to the pursuit of happiness.

For the poor who have practically nothing else, that's the only happiness left to them. That is why more babies are born to poor families, which can least afford them. On the other hand, rich families, which can afford them, have very few children. That is because there are many other things that occupy them: parties, dinner at swank restaurants, concerts and plays, mahjong sessions, golf, travel, etc., etc.

The conventional wisdom is to allow couples to continue to have their happiness but still prevent babies through the use of artificial contraceptives. But the Catholic Church frowns on this. And we know that when leaders of the Church growl, government officials tremble.

But for some time now, I have been recommending a birth control pill that is acceptable to the Church, but nobody is listening. It is 100 percent effective, it is inexpensive, and it is easy to take. It is taken not by the woman but by the man. He takes it less than an hour before going to bed. Wonderful, *'di ba?*

What is it? A sleeping pill.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo will send eight new tax measures to Congress to raise funds for her bankrupt government. That is a bad habit: You're running out of money? Get it from the people.

But in the case of Filipinos, imposing more taxes is like squeezing blood out of a turnip or killing the goose that lays the golden egg. According to the National Tax Research Center, 20.92 percent of the average family's income (for year 2000) already goes to direct and indirect taxes.

It is not only the direct income tax, which you see, that the government gets. Most of the indirect taxes you don't see at all. When you take a bus or a jeepney, part of your fare goes to fuel taxes; when you eat at a restaurant, you pay a 10 percent value added tax (VAT); when you go to the wet market or the supermarket, you pay more taxes for the foodstuff you buy; when you smoke or drink a bottle of beer, part of the price goes to taxes; when you go to the movies, you pay taxes, etc. There's hardly a thing you can buy or do without a part of what you pay going to indirect taxes. In fact, the government gets more from indirect taxes (11.50 percent of a family's income) than from direct taxes (9.42 percent).

Despite this big bite, the President still wants Congress to pass more tax bills and raise existing ones.

What does Juan get in return? Almost nothing. Much of the money goes to the generous salaries and allowances of public officials. It goes to the new cars and the frequent trips abroad of peripatetic officials.

The President says everybody should sacrifice and share the burden. But shouldn't public officials lead by example? Shouldn't they be the first to sacrifice? Shouldn't they lead by cutting their generous salaries and allowances? In private companies, top officials voluntarily take salary cuts when the company is in financial trouble. But in our government, the President is laying off low-salaried employees but retaining the highly-paid ones. She is abolishing offices but at the same time creating new ones.

In the first place, why does the government have to raise more money after it has already taken plenty from the public? Because the government loses about half of its revenues to grafters. That's according to the Department of Finance itself.

That's about P700 billion stolen every year by corrupt officials. Thus, just by stopping corruption, the government would save P700 billion. The pork barrel alone—the most corrupt of all systems, wherein each of the 236 congressmen get P70 to P100 million a year and each senator gets P200 million—costs the taxpayers P28 billion a year. Stop corruption and, instead of a deficit, we will probably have a surplus.

The DOF recommended, years ago, a number of tax measures. One of them is to improve the efficiency of tax collection agencies. The Philippines has one of the lowest collection rates in the world (only 12 percent). The DOF said the measures it proposed would generate P100 billion a year.

A number of these proposals have been in Congress for many years already. Most of them are well-crafted, based on a study made in 1987 by a team led by Dr. Paul Klugman. That year, President Corazon Aquino commissioned Klugman, a renowned economist, to study and find the flaws of the Philippine tax system.

To date, the recommended measures have not been approved by Congress. Reason: it takes time to raise money from them. Impose a tax on text messaging and you'll have your money at the end of the month. On the other hand, preventing technical smuggling is difficult, cleaning up the tax collection agencies even harder.

Hence, it is easier and quicker to impose new taxes and increase existing ones than to correct the flaws of the bureaucracy that breed corruption.

But new and higher taxes are an additional burden to the weary shoulders of Filipino families. They can't take it anymore. The government is biting too much. It should cut its own fat to raise the money it needs.

The gall

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE GOOD news is I'm alive. The bad news is I'm alive. That's for friends and enemies.

My journey into, well, another world began last Saturday night, or the early hours of Sunday morning. I felt a bit of gas, which I chalked up to a bit of good living. Before that, nothing, I felt well. I put some ointment on my stomach and went to bed. I found it hard to sleep however. The gas wasn't painful but it was bothersome. I felt hollow at the pit of my stomach.

I woke up after several hours feeling bedraggled, but still managed to write on Sunday morning. But by the afternoon I felt worse. The heaviness in my stomach had become a distinct ache underneath my right rib. Every time I took a deep breath, I felt something like a sliver slicing through that part of my body. I thought ulcers had caught up with me.

I spent the rest of the day in bed, thinking, or hoping, a long rest would do the trick. It did not. I could not find a comfortable spot. I had another fitful night, and woke up even more bedraggled than the day before. I tried writing with the aid of coffee, managed four or five paragraphs, but could not go on. The throbbing ache underneath my right rib was too distracting even with fierce concentration. I knew I had to see a doctor and had originally set it in my mind for Tuesday, Monday being my "carless" day. The way I felt Monday morning made me advance my schedule. I called up my friend, Dr. Jiji (short for Jesus) Sison, my brother's brother-in-law, and set up an appointment for the afternoon.

I drove up to St. Luke's. Even the prospect of hailing a taxi and talking to a driver seemed unpleasant in light of how I felt. Each time I fell into a pothole, my rib cage rattled.

It took some time before I saw Jiji. There's a story there—his sister, Milen, my brother's wife, was sick, too—but better told elsewhere. When he poked me on the area of my right rib cage, I recoiled. He told me he was almost certain it was gallbladder stones and that I needed to have my bladder removed. He asked me to see a gastro specialist in the next building to get an ultrasound scan. I went there, but had to wait my turn amid a slew of patients. I felt faint, I was sucking the air through my mouth, but noticed there were a lot of pretty med reps around.

When it was my turn, the specialist, Dr. De Ocampo, asked me to lie on a cot. I couldn't. The motion of lying down sent spasms of pain rippling through my body. I found I could now crouch only on my left side. De Ocampo gave the same verdict, gallstones, and ordered me admitted. I was about to protest—only my boy, Miguel, and I are at home, my wife is in the US to attend her father's funeral, it doesn't rain, it pours—but rationality pierced through the fog in my brain and told me that if I went home, I would not be taking care of my boy, he would be taking care of me.

I will be grateful for that decision the rest of my life.

That night, they scanned me while I lay on my left side, saw the stones, saw my bloated bladder, and recommended surgery next day. The way I was feeling, I would have agreed to it that very night.

I couldn't sleep that night. My neck now also ached from being frozen in one position for so long. I must have dozed off for an hour in the wee hours of morning. When I crept back into my body, it was rioting with pain. I could no longer lie even on my left side. In fact, I could not take any position upright or down that did not send tremors of pain emanating from the pit of my stomach. Anything beyond the barest intake of breath brought pain.

I begged for relievers, but they said they had already given me those through the IV the night before. They told me I was scheduled for operation at 4 that afternoon. I counted the hours, minutes and seconds with bated breath—literally, absolutely, excruciatingly. The sensation was not unlike acute gout, where the slightest breath on a sore spot—or even the anticipation of it—sent exquisite pain thrilling through your body. Except that with gout, you could breathe. Here you could not. I wondered if Dante Alighieri ever had gallstones.

Shortly before the operation they gave me Nubain, which, combined with the Demerol I had a couple of hours earlier, proved the perfect cocktail. I entered the twilight zone, lights flashing around me and a melee of noises rushing, fading, floating, the human indistinguishable from the natural. I had scattered images of being wheeled to the operating room. I was about to protest when they were about to lift me but was dumbstruck to find I could be moved after all. No pain, just a dull sensation. They stuck the anesthetic needle into my back, and that one woke me briefly. I groaned.

I had a sudden attack of panic shortly afterward. After the unbearable pain came the unbearable nothingness. Through the twilight zone, I found I could not move any part of my body, except my eyes. Nothing responded. My body might as well not have been there. I felt a boundless sympathy for Christopher Reeve. That was before Morpheus finally took me in his arms.

Jiji would tell me later what happened from there. When they cut me up, they were astonished to see that my bladder was wrapped up in thick mucus, which is how a body responds to an impending rupture. Two things could account for why it didn't show up in the ultrasound. One was that since it was taken while I lay on my side, my musculature might have hidden the true extent of my condition. Two is that the two pigment stones that were found in me later just decided to lodge at the point where the bladder leads to the duct, shutting it off completely, so that each time the bladder pumped, it just swelled and swelled. It was just a bad roll of the dice—or stones.

Whatever it was, it turned an operation that normally took an hour to four hours. They took care to drain the fluids from my bladder first to prevent it from bursting and to reduce it to a point where they could operate. "We were just in time," Jiji told me next day, grinning. "A little longer, and—" he paused. "I used all the tricks in the book. I'm proud of the results." I asked him what would have happened if my bladder had burst, though I had an idea at the back of my mind.

"It would have been like an appendix bursting," he said, "except worse. So much worse."

So my apologies for disappearing last Wednesday and Thursday. Of course, I can't blame you if you say: "You think all that is a good excuse not to write a column?

"The gall!"

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OPINION

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Cleared?

EDITORIAL

IN RUSHING to judgment on an issue of historic importance, the Department of Justice has committed a grave injustice.

Last Thursday, the Abu Sayyaf's most famous ex-hostage testified at the trial of her alleged kidnappers. But the DOJ prosecutors used Gracia Burnham's three-hour testimony not to follow the kidnapping trail wherever it may lead, but to stop anyone from going farther down that road.

The DOJ used last week's hearing at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to immediately, even eagerly, clear the Armed Forces of allegations that some officers and their men had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang during the ordeal of the Dos Palmas hostages.

Reporters were barred from the hearing, which was attended by extremely tight security because of Burnham's presence. Thus, the news that the missionary, who spent over a year in captivity, had allegedly issued a statement clearing the military came from the DOJ lawyers themselves.

"There was no collusion between the ASG and the military," State Prosecutor Nestor Lazaro quoted Burnham as saying. Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera weighed in with a categorical evaluation: "Her statement in court should put everything—the matter, all doubts—to rest." And Acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said that Burnham's statement, "given under oath and in open court, should clarify any misunderstanding that her book might have created."

If this is the way the government's top lawyers think, then justice in the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings may never be fully served.

In the first place, why did the prosecutors object to the question about collusion? The parties in the hearing, as well as the videotape record, attest to at least one related series of facts: It was the defense counsel (that is, those defending the alleged Abu Sayyaf suspects) who asked Burnham the collusion question last Thursday. The state prosecutors immediately objected to the question, and RTC Judge Lorifel Pahimna sustained the objection.

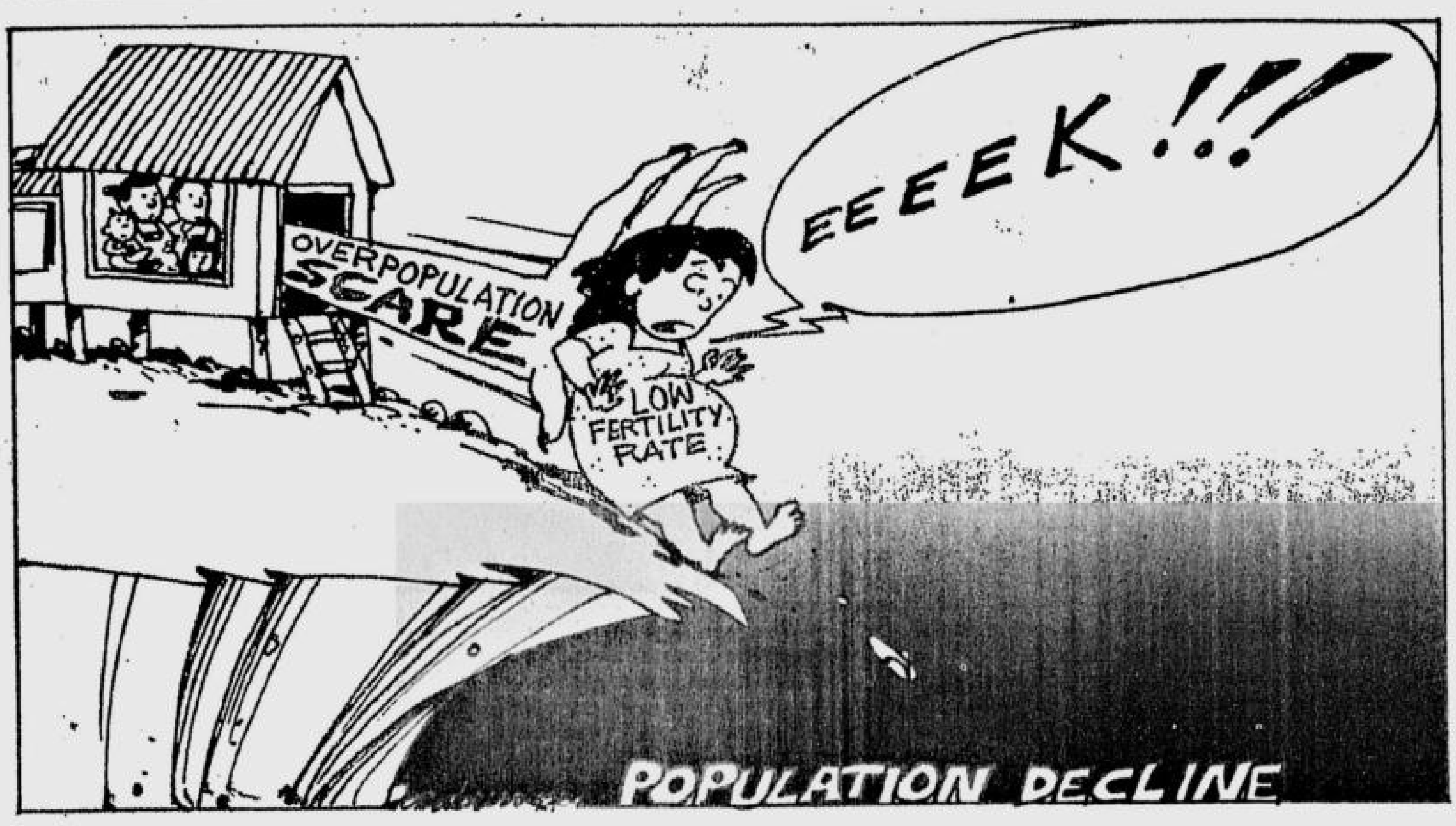
It was during this rapid-fire exchange, the DOJ lawyers said, that Burnham allegedly gave her answer. But the available videotape, seen in the judge's chambers by the enterprising Aladdin Bacolodan of ABS-CBN, shows Burnham keeping silent in the middle of the legal fireworks.

This controversy has obscured an essential, undisputed fact: For some unknown reason, the DOJ lawyers argued that the issue of collusion between the kidnap gang and the military pursuing the kidnappers was irrelevant to the case.

How can the alleged collusion be irrelevant? If some members of the military were in fact complicit, then much about the hostages' ordeal becomes comprehensible. For one thing, collusion helps explain what may well be the military's greatest single failure since the post-Pearl Harbor bombing of Clark Air Base in World War II: the escape of the kidnappers and their victims from the siege of the Lamitan hospital. It helps explain why, as Burnham disclosed in her own book, military forces seemed to have a policy of fighting only by day. "Oddly, the AFP didn't pursue us" after the escape, she wrote: "As time went on, we noticed that they never pursued us"—at night, which is when the bandits and their victims moved about. It also helps explain ex-hostage Reghis Romero's mysterious satellite-phone call soon after his abduction, and his equally mysterious dash to freedom in the middle of the siege.

And how can a single person's testimony put "everything" to rest? There are many other witnesses that the prosecution can put on the witness stand, all of whom will testify what they have heard or personally know of the alleged collusion. For a start, the DOJ can consult the record of the committee hearings in both the Senate and the House, which lists some of these witnesses. And books have been written detailing aspects of the alleged collusion, which date back to long before the Abu Sayyaf raid on the Dos Palmas resort in 2001.

Let us grant that the DOJ prosecutors did hear Burnham say the all-important words. The question is: Why do the prosecutors welcome this as some sort of absolute closure to the collusion issue? It is wishful thinking on their part, revealing only what they want to keep closed.



A birth control pill acceptable to the Church

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE CURRENT debate on defusing the population bomb, I think, is barking up the wrong tree. Whether you limit every couple to only two children or ban the birth of new babies for the next five years, you do not address the real problem. Babies are only the by-product of the problem. Sex is the problem.

Couples make love not because they want to make babies but because having sex is very enjoyable. The key, therefore, is not to prevent babies but to prevent sex. But that would violate the individual's right to the pursuit of happiness.

For the poor who have practically nothing else, that's the only happiness left to them. That is why more babies are born to poor families, which can least afford them. On the other hand, rich families, which can afford them, have very few children. That is because there are many other things that occupy them: parties, dinner at swank restaurants, concerts and plays, mahjong sessions, golf, travel, etc., etc.

The conventional wisdom is to allow couples to continue to have their happiness but still prevent babies through the use of artificial contraceptives. But the Catholic Church frowns on this. And we know that when leaders of the Church growl, government officials tremble.

But for some time now, I have been recommending a birth control pill that is acceptable to the Church, but nobody is listening. It is 100 percent effective, it is inexpensive, and it is easy to take. It is taken not by the woman but by the man. He takes it less than an hour before going to bed. Wonderful, *'di ba?*

What is it? A sleeping pill.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo will send eight new tax measures to Congress to raise funds for her bankrupt government. That is a bad habit: You're running out of money? Get it from the people.

But in the case of Filipinos, imposing more taxes is like squeezing blood out of a turnip or killing the goose that lays the golden egg. According to the National Tax Research Center, 20.92 percent of the average family's income (for year 2000) already goes to direct and indirect taxes.

It is not only the direct income tax, which you see, that the government gets. Most of the indirect taxes you don't see at all. When you take a bus or a jeepney, part of your fare goes to fuel taxes; when you eat at a restaurant, you pay a 10 percent value added tax (VAT); when you go to the wet market or the supermarket, you pay more taxes for the foodstuff you buy; when you smoke or drink a bottle of beer, part of the price goes to taxes; when you go to the movies, you pay taxes, etc. There's hardly a thing you can buy or do without a part of what you pay going to indirect taxes. In fact, the government gets more from indirect taxes (11.50 percent of a family's income) than from direct taxes (9.42 percent).

Despite this big bite, the President still wants Congress to pass more tax bills and raise existing ones.

What does Juan get in return? Almost nothing. Much of the money goes to the generous salaries and allowances of public officials. It goes to the new cars and the frequent trips abroad of peripatetic officials.

The President says everybody should sacrifice and share the burden. But shouldn't public officials lead by example? Shouldn't they be the first to sacrifice? Shouldn't they lead by cutting their generous salaries and allowances? In private companies, top officials voluntarily take salary cuts when the company is in financial trouble. But in our government, the President is laying off low-salaried employees but retaining the highly-paid ones. She is abolishing offices but at the same time creating new ones.

In the first place, why does the government have to raise more money after it has already taken plenty from the public? Because the government loses about half of its revenues to grafters. That's according to the Department of Finance itself.

That's about P700 billion stolen every year by corrupt officials. Thus, just by stopping corruption, the government would save P700 billion. The pork barrel alone—the most corrupt of all systems, wherein each of the 236 congressmen get P70 to P100 million a year and each senator gets P200 million—costs the taxpayers P28 billion a year. Stop corruption and, instead of a deficit, we will probably have a surplus.

The DOF recommended, years ago, a number of tax measures. One of them is to improve the efficiency of tax collection agencies. The Philippines has one of the lowest collection rates in the world (only 12 percent). The DOF said the measures it proposed would generate P100 billion a year.

A number of these proposals have been in Congress for many years already. Most of them are well-crafted, based on a study made in 1987 by a team led by Dr. Paul Klugman. That year, President Corazon Aquino commissioned Klugman, a renowned economist, to study and find the flaws of the Philippine tax system.

To date, the recommended measures have not been approved by Congress. Reason: it takes time to raise money from them. Impose a tax on text messaging and you'll have your money at the end of the month. On the other hand, preventing technical smuggling is difficult, cleaning up the tax collection agencies even harder.

Hence, it is easier and quicker to impose new taxes and increase existing ones than to correct the flaws of the bureaucracy that breed corruption.

But new and higher taxes are an additional burden to the weary shoulders of Filipino families. They can't take it anymore. The government is biting too much. It should cut its own fat to raise the money it needs.

The gall

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE GOOD news is I'm alive. The bad news is I'm alive. That's for friends and enemies.

My journey into, well, another world began last Saturday night, or the early hours of Sunday morning. I felt a bit of gas, which I chalked up to a bit of good living. Before that, nothing, I felt well. I put some ointment on my stomach and went to bed. I found it hard to sleep however. The gas wasn't painful but it was bothersome. I felt hollow at the pit of my stomach.

I woke up after several hours feeling bedraggled, but still managed to write on Sunday morning. But by the afternoon I felt worse. The heaviness in my stomach had become a distinct ache underneath my right rib. Every time I took a deep breath, I felt something like a sliver slicing through that part of my body. I thought ulcers had caught up with me.

I spent the rest of the day in bed, thinking, or hoping, a long rest would do the trick. It did not. I could not find a comfortable spot. I had another fitful night, and woke up even more bedraggled than the day before. I tried writing with the aid of coffee, managed four or five paragraphs, but could not go on. The throbbing ache underneath my right rib was too distracting even with fierce concentration. I knew I had to see a doctor and had originally set it in my mind for Tuesday, Monday being my "carless" day. The way I felt Monday morning made me advance my schedule. I called up my friend, Dr. Jiji (short for Jesus) Sison, my brother's brother-in-law, and set up an appointment for the afternoon.

I drove up to St. Luke's. Even the prospect of hailing a taxi and talking to a driver seemed unpleasant in light of how I felt. Each time I fell into a pothole, my rib cage rattled.

It took some time before I saw Jiji. There's a story there—his sister, Milen, my brother's wife, was sick, too—but better told elsewhere. When he poked me on the area of my right rib cage, I recoiled. He told me he was almost certain it was gallbladder stones and that I needed to have my bladder removed. He asked me to see a gastro specialist in the next building to get an ultrasound scan. I went there, but had to wait my turn amid a slew of patients. I felt faint, I was sucking the air through my mouth, but noticed there were a lot of pretty med reps around.

When it was my turn, the specialist, Dr. De Ocampo, asked me to lie on a cot. I couldn't. The motion of lying down sent spasms of pain rippling through my body. I found I could now crouch only on my left side. De Ocampo gave the same verdict, gallstones, and ordered me admitted. I was about to protest—only my boy, Miguel, and I are at home, my wife is in the US to attend her father's funeral, it doesn't rain, it pours—but rationality pierced through the fog in my brain and told me that if I went home, I would not be taking care of my boy, he would be taking care of me.

I will be grateful for that decision the rest of my life.

That night, they scanned me while I lay on my left side, saw the stones, saw my bloated bladder, and recommended surgery next day. The way I was feeling, I would have agreed to it that very night.

I couldn't sleep that night. My neck now also ached from being frozen in one position for so long. I must have dozed off for an hour in the wee hours of morning. When I crept back into my body, it was rioting with pain. I could no longer lie even on my left side. In fact, I could not take any position upright or down that did not send tremors of pain emanating from the pit of my stomach. Anything beyond the barest intake of breath brought pain.

I begged for relievers, but they said they had already given me those through the IV the night before. They told me I was scheduled for operation at 4 that afternoon. I counted the hours, minutes and seconds with bated breath—literally, absolutely, excruciatingly. The sensation was not unlike acute gout, where the slightest breath on a sore spot—or even the anticipation of it—sent exquisite pain thrilling through your body. Except that with gout, you could breathe. Here you could not. I wondered if Dante Alighieri ever had gallstones.

Shortly before the operation they gave me Nubain, which, combined with the Demerol I had a couple of hours earlier, proved the perfect cocktail. I entered the twilight zone, lights flashing around me and a melee of noises rushing, fading, floating, the human indistinguishable from the natural. I had scattered images of being wheeled to the operating room. I was about to protest when they were about to lift me but was dumbstruck to find I could be moved after all. No pain, just a dull sensation. They stuck the anesthetic needle into my back, and that one woke me briefly. I groaned.

I had a sudden attack of panic shortly afterward. After the unbearable pain came the unbearable nothingness. Through the twilight zone, I found I could not move any part of my body, except my eyes. Nothing responded. My body might as well not have been there. I felt a boundless sympathy for Christopher Reeve. That was before Morpheus finally took me in his arms.

Jiji would tell me later what happened from there. When they cut me up, they were astonished to see that my bladder was wrapped up in thick mucus, which is how a body responds to an impending rupture. Two things could account for why it didn't show up in the ultrasound. One was that since it was taken while I lay on my side, my musculature might have hidden the true extent of my condition. Two is that the two pigment stones that were found in me later just decided to lodge at the point where the bladder leads to the duct, shutting it off completely, so that each time the bladder pumped, it just swelled and swelled. It was just a bad roll of the dice—or stones.

Whatever it was, it turned an operation that normally took an hour to four hours. They took care to drain the fluids from my bladder first to prevent it from bursting and to reduce it to a point where they could operate. "We were just in time," Jiji told me next day, grinning. "A little longer, and—" he paused. "I used all the tricks in the book. I'm proud of the results." I asked him what would have happened if my bladder had burst, though I had an idea at the back of my mind.

"It would have been like an appendix bursting," he said, "except worse. So much worse."

So my apologies for disappearing last Wednesday and Thursday. Of course, I can't blame you if you say: "You think all that is a good excuse not to write a column?

"The gall!"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The budget pie

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST night, in our regular dzRH program where we feature all sorts of poverty alleviation efforts, Cecile Alvarez and I invited Socioecomonic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to shed light on the recent State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Neri was quite effective in explaining the country's fiscal problem and the need to close our gaping budget deficit, by using metaphors—in terms understandable to our nationwide audience—pretty much as Jesus Christ did. For instance, he likened the economy to a subdivision where the residents don't pay their monthly dues, thus making the community unable to pay for security guards, garbage collection and other basic services. Or, said Neri, it's like a family that lives on borrowed money to sustain its lifestyle; definitely, a family that keeps this up will be in trouble. In driving home the need for citizens to help the troubled economy, he said it's not unlike a family where the children who earn well don't want to help their hard-up parents with the family expenses (in this case the former are the businessmen who are being exhorted by GMA to pay correct taxes).

* * *

Government faces the two-fold challenge of increasing revenues and cutting down on expenditures through austerity measures. In her Sona, GMA promised to cut back government expenditures by P20 billion but asked Congress to help her raise P80 billion in revenues. As Neri explained, the budget pie is cut up into four parts: 33 percent for debt service; 35 percent for salaries of government personnel; 20 percent for the internal revenue allotment of local governments; the rest goes to operating and capital expenditures, such as hospitals, schools, etc. Obviously, there's little room to maneuver for basic services.

Neri stressed that government has to raise revenues to convince creditors (who, incidentally, have raised their interest on loans to RP) "that we are serious in putting our economic house in order." Congress is eyeing several sources of revenue: the so-called "sin taxes" on liquor and cigarettes, and the taxes on fuel, among others. He said that if the indexation of taxes from all these sources were to be adjusted to present rates, an estimated P70 billion a year remains uncollected, of which the sin taxes alone account for about P14 billion. The problem is, can this Congress pass the "sin taxes," considering how powerful certain industrialists are, after, presumably, funding the campaign of many legislators. I asked Neri about this, and with a smile he said, *"baka naman puedeng kausapin."* They know that if the economy were to worsen they would be the first to be affected.

* * *

Our Sunday dzRH program is only 45 minutes, so the interview with Neri allowed us only a bird's-eye view of pressing issues. But we learned a few things. For instance, he noted that this year saw such a big jump in the number of people seeking jobs, from about a million annually in past years, to as high as 1.9 million people this year. *"Nabigla kami,"* he said, and he surmised that one reason could be that some OFWs have been returning and swelling the labor force traditionally dominated by new graduates.

* * *

Zeroing in on GMA's goal of creating 10 million new jobs in six years, Neri noted that to create one job in the small and medium enterprise (SME) category costs only P50,000; whereas, in the big companies, it costs P1 million. The conclusion one can draw here is that our 800,000 SMEs have a tremendous role to play in revving up our economy. But then, it's not only here where this phenomenon is happening. I read recently in an International Herald Tribune report that the "Mittelstand," the thousands of SMEs in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, create about two-thirds of all the jobs in that country.

* * *

To spur our SMEs, government and private lending institutions are trying to make it attractive for them to borrow funding for capitalization, but one market that has not been adequately tapped for possible SME participation is the unused remittances from OFWs. This fact alone makes it imperative that the office of the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino communities be maintained. (I heard there's a plan to abolish it and incorporate its function into the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.) Not only that, the office ought to be revitalized, if those unutilized OFW remittances are to be tapped for meaningful economic growth. Luring those remittances to join the SME field needs special handling as it's a gold mine.

* * *

Neri threw into the job picture an interesting equation: every tourist means at least one job for a Filipino in any of the allied industries spurred by tourism, such as the hotels, resorts and restaurants, etc. That's how important tourism is, something that Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, countries that pale in comparison to ours in beauty and hospitality, have long known. At the farewell reception recently tendered by German Ambassador and Mme. Herbert Jess for their friends, I chatted with tourism chief Roberto Pagdanganan, who had just returned from China where he opened the first Philippine tourism office. He stressed that the agreement with China to open this office was entered into in the Ramos years, yet it's only in his watch (that began last February) that it was finally implemented. He pointed out that while North America is still our No. 1 source of tourists, Korea has replaced Japan in the No. 2 position; but very promising is the Chinese market. He revealed that 20 million Chinese annually go on a foreign tour. Their number could easily go up, given the new Chinese prosperity; but sadly, most of them end up in Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and neighboring countries. We lure only 32,000 Chinese tourists a year, but the DOT chief is confident this would increase with our new tourism office in Beijing.

Sounds and silence

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

DESPITE one more (and we hope the last) political squeeze out of Angelo de la Cruz, it would have gone without a hitch. And then it happened. For one shocking moment I thought a heckler had somehow slipped through the 12,000-strong security wall and decided to commit suicide by making fun of President Macapagal-Arroyo as she delivered her State of the Nation Address.

It was the most dreadful sound, a kind of self-satisfied, mocking laughter that seemed to come from a crypt in the depths of the earth. It lasted for what seemed an eternity, and it was only when Ms Arroyo mirthfully pointed at a special person among her audience of 13th Congress lawmakers that I realized it was the President herself laughing.

"You should have seen the expression on the faces of the diplomatic corps," a Manila-based colleague would text later. "I wished the floor would open up, etc."

And that infernal laughter defined the entire Sona. False, depressing, fearsome, a distasteful joke utterly devoid of joy, totally hopeless; reflecting exactly the state of the Filipino people.

But the most horrifying sound of all was when Ms Arroyo asked Congress to go full speed ahead in changing the Constitution, music so heavenly to the ears of Jose de Venecia and his legions, that like jacks-in-the-box they magically sprung up to give her a standing ovation.

It was a spectacle that you could have aptly captioned with a paraphrase of the sign over the entrance to Dante's inferno: abandon all hope ye who see this.

All we, in Mindanao, really wanted was a shift to the federal system. But Ms Arroyo's silence on this point was deafening. Instead, we gave her and De Venecia an excuse to shift to a parliamentary system which, from what we have seen and heard between the lines, is actually a carte blanche for them and their cohorts to rule us for the rest of their immortal lives.

Worse, she said something that I found incomprehensible. The change, she said, would come only after she had enjoyed her full six-year term so that she could accomplish all the wonderful things she had enumerated in her to-do list.

It is only after we have succeeded under a presidential system that we should change to a parliamentary one, she said with great wisdom.

And my simple mind asked: If despite pervading doubts of her legitimacy, a gigantic debt, an enormous budget deficit, escalating prices of commodities and services, a corrupt and incompetent bureaucracy, ballooning population, volatile peace and order, terrorist threats and almost empty government coffers, she gloriously succeeds under this system, why change it at all?

If it ain't broke, don't fix it, *di ba*?

But then if we don't, we won't have Gloria in perpetual reign.

Listen to the clamor: "We hope you will be President for life," said an adoring constituent in the first *pulong-pulong* conducted in the territory of Roilo Golez, according to the script of the ridiculously contrived sit-com.

There will be many, many more of the town meetings all over the islands in the coming six years for as long as Ms Arroyo can rise from the floor with the help of Vice President Noli de Castro, until the clamor reaches a deafening crescendo, and an awakened citizenry will rise up to demand that Congress heed it.

The Sona was as silent as a tomb on the prospects for lasting peace in Mindanao, or on a vision of development that could at least offer hope to alleviate its populace's debilitating poverty.

The orphans who lost their parents in military offensives remain hopeless, the families crowded into evacuation centers remain homeless, the sick and the dying are too far and too numerous to receive the blessings of PhilHealth cards.

Whether or not the miserable barangays in the hinterlands of Mindanao are covered by the Patubig ni Gloria, Pailaw ni Gloria, Pabigas ni Gloria, Pakalsada ni Gloria, Pagamot ni Gloria, has yet to be known.

And as for computers in every classroom, or even in every school—if they have a school—why, we don't even have textbooks here!

Well, what else did we expect? Maybe, because Ms Arroyo knows in her heart that Mindanao did not vote overwhelmingly for her, so why bother?

Besides, her brilliant speechwriters can always turn fiction into fact. They can make her stand 10 feet tall by claiming this is a government that cares, so caring it can defy even George W. Bush himself just to save the life of one Filipino—even as we all know that were it not for the militants who got their heads cracked by truncheons and their bodies smashed by water cannons to force her to save the life of her precarious administration, De la Cruz's body would now be lying headless in the Tigris River.

Is there balm in Gilead? Of course.

If those speeches are not sufficient to convince us that we are blessed with a "Strong Republic," just feed your senses with those television infomercials, billboards and print ads extolling the achievements of President Gloria; so persistent are they you'd think we are still in the midst of the campaign period. But at least they are a very transparent way of showing where our taxes go.

By the way, in her Sona, Ms Arroyo promised to create 10 million jobs during this term. At least we can be sure that those 3,000 workers who are going to lose their jobs because the government has not paid the contractors who hired them to put up her billboards, can be quickly re-hired.

In the meantime, light candles and pray.

* * *

Comments to nm19@mysmart.com.ph

Food for thought

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

FROM A LETTER by Dr. Gustav Jaeger to J.G. Bourke, circa 1888: "A storekeeper in Berlin was punished some years ago for having used the urine of young girls with a view to make his cheese richer and more piquant. Notwithstanding, people went, bought and ate his cheese with delight."

When I was in the ninth grade, as our biology class began to tackle the subject of reproduction, our teacher decided to treat us to a gruesome demonstration of fetal development. Fertilized chicken eggs were incubated, and over the period of time leading to the hatching of young chicks, one egg was broken open every day so that we could see the development of the chickens-to-be. The first few days were all right, as you couldn't see much—a whitish speck on the yolk being, we were assured, the rudimentary beginnings of a future fowl; as the days progressed, though, things got a bit morbid, as increasingly well-formed chickens were being extracted from their shells, and left to die (in great pain, I would think) on our teacher's dissecting pan, to our ghoulish delight.

Near the end, an almost-viable chick was condemned to death (all in the name of science, of course), but we were surprised to discover, as we watched it writhing on the bed of black wax that lined the dissecting pan, that it was a freak: its heart had grown outside of its breast (instant lesson on mutation!). As it squirmed in its death throes, our teacher's sepulchral voice boomed, "Manuel, I hear that in the Philippines people eat these."

Sensation.

I tried to be nonchalant about it: "Actually, what we eat are baby ducks." Fortunately (for me: my self-control didn't extend very far then, at the age of 16!), the last living moments of the deformed chick exerted a greater pull on my classmates' attention, and the subject of embryos of duck was, mercifully, dropped. This was when it dawned on me that some people have this strange idea that we, Filipinos, have a passion for peculiar food: which I think may be somewhat understandable coming from Americans, who aren't imaginative when it comes to food; but in the case of Europeans, attempts on their part to criticize our cuisine irks me no end.

The late father of three close friends, an Englishman married to a Filipina, was a modern-day example of what people used to call old China hands (whites who lived in China for decades, made vast fortunes, and yet never bothered to learn a word of Chinese or anything about Chinese culture). He absolutely refused to eat any Filipino food—even though he had been a resident of this country for almost 30 years! Bringing up the subject—as I did, once—led to his launching a tirade about how he refused to eat "nasties" like "carry-carry": a strange complaint coming from a culture that has dishes called toad-in-the-hole and spotted dick.

Other European friends are more game, although you have to do a bit of prodding. Our notorious embryo of duck—*balut*—has become more palatable to the more adventurous ever since it was frenchified and transformed into *balut* soufflé. Anyway, I don't see why Europeans should have a hard time with our food, considering how we usually greet stories about some things they eat, with aplomb (if not outright delight: once explained, the similarities of *kuhol* [snail] and escargot often inspire fraternal feelings): a friend studying in Italy, after going into an enthusiastic litany of praises for horse meat, admitted he was surprised I didn't blanch.

Still, I maintain a little stock of stories to fling at foreigners when they start getting nervous about our food. The Berlin cheese-maker story is one. I have a whole bunch of French ones (of course!) like this one:

From the General Homeopathic Journal (1886) about Paris:

"The neighbors of an establishment famous for its excellent bread, pastry, and similar products of luxury, complained again and again of the disgusting smells which prevailed therein and which penetrated into their dwellings. The appearance of cholera finally lent force to those complaints, and the sanitary inspectors who were sent to investigate the matter that there was a connection between the water closets of these dwellings and the reservoir containing the water used in the preparation of the bread. This connection was cut off at once, but the immediate result thereof was a perceptible deterioration of the quality of the bread. Chemists had no difficulty in demonstrating that water, impregnated with an 'extract of water closet' has the peculiar property of causing dough to rise particularly fine, thereby imparting to the bread the nice appearance and pleasant flavor which is the principal quality of luxurious bread."

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Accurate info

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE NEWSPAPER has been described "as the first draft of history." People generally rely on broadsheets and tabloids for information about people, issues and events that affect their lives. Hence, the need for accuracy in reporting.

As Joseph Pulitzer, a famous American journalist, puts it: newsmen should always remember three words and these are "accuracy, accuracy, accuracy."

This was the premise of the letter of Ernesto Ignacio to this column. He wrote: "From time to time, we read in your newspaper reports that are later disputed or denied by the person concerned. This is disturbing for the simple reason that such presentation of non-facts as facts malign people's reputation and mislead readers who trust the accuracy of your reports and information.

"This is especially true for information that takes little time and effort on the part of the writer to verify. A case in point is the column ("Greed and opportunism at sweepstakes office") on July 15, 2004 by Mr. Neal Cruz. He wrote: 'In fact, they passed a resolution last July 8 terminating the appointments of De Leon's staff. (Director Vicky Garchitorena didn't sign the resolution.)'

"In a letter published today, Mr. Manuel Morato raised a number of points on the article of Mr. Cruz. On the claim of Mr. Cruz above, Mr. Morato wrote: 'The board resolution Cruz referred to was signed by all the directors, including Vicky Garchitorena.'

"In this example, this is not a matter of opinion. This is inaccuracy on verifiable information that could have been avoided by a call to the PCSO's board of directors or the agency information officer.

"What is the responsibility of the PDI to the readers in cases where the reporter or columnist failed or neglected to check information in his or her article? How about the author of the article? Where does it place your readers?"

Verification

For starters, let me to spell out the policy of the INQUIRER on statement of facts made by columnists in their articles. When a columnist writes about facts and figures in his column, he is held to the same test as the reporters: he should verify the accuracy of his information.

The newspaper does not interfere in or try to influence the opinions of its columnists. They are free to write about anything within their field of expertise or assigned topics. The editor of the section where a column appears reviews the article only to make sure it does not contain statements that could put the newspaper in legal trouble and it complies with the INQUIRER's rules on grammar and style.

Now, for the reader's questions. If a reporter fails or neglects to check his facts and the inaccuracy is discovered or brought to the attention of the editorial staff, the proper correction is made in the "Corrections" box that appears on Page 4 of the main section. The box comes out whenever the need arises.

At the same time, the attention of the reporter or editor concerned is called to avoid a repeat of the error in the future. The copy of the news report that is on file with the newspaper's electronic database is likewise corrected to ensure that the error is not repeated in subsequent reference to the same story.

In the haste to meet editorial deadlines, sometimes reporters fail to make a thorough verification of the facts in their stories. That's forgivable. But if the failure or neglect is committed with alarming regularity, then the reporter opens himself to administrative sanctions for violation of the newspaper's rules and regulations.

Columnists

With regard to columnists who are less careful in their statement of facts, the rules are different and, in some ways, more stringent. If the inaccuracy is brought to the newspaper's attention by way of a letter to the editor, a copy of the letter is immediately sent to the columnist concerned for his information.

Without waiting for the columnist's reaction to the letter, the Opinion editor can have the letter published in the Letters section, subject to the usual rules on length, grammar and style. It's up to the columnist to take up the letter in his column or ignore it. If he keeps silent about it, he runs the risk of losing his credibility to the readers.

The columnist is not allowed to answer or rebut the letter in the Letters section for two reasons: one, he has a column where he can air his side; second, the Letters section is reserved for the readers; its already limited space should not be diminished by the space that will be taken up by the columnist's response.

If the columnist fails to act on the letter after one "column day" or the Letters section does not have enough space, the letter can be published in full in this column. Fortunately, to date, the latter approach has not been resorted to. The columnists have kept faith with the newspaper's rules on the handling of readers' complaints.

In case a columnist refuses to comply with the rules on this matter, the section editor concerned or publisher will remind him about the need to toe the line. If the admonition falls on deaf ears, the contract of that columnist with the INquirer will be reduced to a memory come contract renewal day.

To the reader's question of where the newspaper places its readers, the answer is: at the top of the list because they are the reason for being of any newspaper that takes seriously its mission to inform and educate the public.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Do it first

"Don't try to think of new ways of raising tax revenues. Just get your house in order in terms of implementation of existing tax policies. Otherwise, it just becomes a lot more complicated."

—Song Seng Wun, regional economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore

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‘Repairing’ good roads

IF you want to see graft and corruption in progress, go quickly to Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. There you will witness the destruction of a perfectly good road and the indecent haste in which the same is recemented overnight.

We first saw several repairs on late evening of July 13, taking place simultaneously in several parts of Katipunan Avenue. My husband and I were passing by the area on our way home to Marikina. Unable to contain our disgust at this irrational act, we stopped to investigate and even told off the laborers doing it and the people hauling away the rubble. We were even more appalled to discover that one side of the 1,000-meter stretch—starting from the corner of Rajah Matanda Street—had already been cordoned off for destruction. Soon, we met up with some agitated shop owners and other concerned citizens in order to more dramatically protest this obvious abuse and misuse—nay, downright theft—of people's money. One shop owner lay down on the road to stop a bulldozer from completing its dirty job. My husband and I made several calls to get TV people to come and expose this irregularity, however, no one could come at that time.

A week later, on July 20, the good portions of Katipunan Avenue, which could not be saved from destruction, were already freshly cemented. The good news is that our protest must have worked because some cordoned-off portions have remained untouched (if only at the moment, I do not know). The bad news is that the destruction crew simply moved to other portions of the avenue where the residents or shop owners did not protest strongly enough.

In the past 15 years, we have personally observed this practice of "repairing" good roads by the Department of Public Works and Highways and local governments. This practice happens with predictable regularity at Katipunan Avenue, Ortigas Avenue and Julia Vargas Avenue, which we traverse every day on our way to and from work. (Once, I personally called up the vice mayor of Pasig to ask for an explanation. The vice mayor said she would get back to me but never did.)

Anyone can pinpoint which streets in Metro Manila or in the Philippines genuinely need repair. Why can't the DPWH leave well-paved roads alone? I think we, taxpayers, know the answer.

—NEOMI T. OLIVARES,
Justice Arellano Street,
Industrial Valley Subd.,
Marikina City

Cost of fishery exports

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is said to have expressed her desire to speed up our country's free trade talks with Japan. (PDI, 7/17/04) Before it is too late, let us say that we cannot support free trade with Japan unless the government effectively deals with the socio-environmental costs in the production of local fishery exports, particularly shrimp.

It is our position that the negotiations should not be limited to mere market access and tariffs. One million small fishermen and their families are the ones who bear the consequences of unsustainable and destructive production methods in fisheries.

Government data show that only 139,735 hectares of mangrove areas remain out of 418,990 hectares in 1967— meaning, a total of 279,255 hectares have been lost mostly to aquaculture. Since a hectare of mangroves is able to support 600 kilos of wild fish per year (according to marine biologists), 279,255 hectares mean a total loss of 167,553,000 kilos of wild fish per year. Their catch dwindling over the years, the small fisherfolk sector has borne this enormous loss.

It was only in 1998 that mangrove conversion was made illegal, but the ban is largely not being implemented. Up to now, this and other socio-environmental costs have remained market externalities excluded from the cost of production, especially in intensive shrimp aquaculture. Because of this, the prices of local shrimp exports to Japan are cheaper than they should be if the socio-environmental costs are taken into account.

In this context, zero tariffs for local shrimp exports are an incentive to production methods that harm the environment and coastal communities.

As for the fisherfolk sub-sector, it can neither participate nor benefit from free trade with Japan without public assistance to develop its production technology and post-harvest and marketing facilities. Despite its pro-poor rhetoric, the government has not provided adequate or appropriate capital and social support for the fisherfolk.

Finally, there is the lack of a fisheries industry plan that emphasizes sustainability over productivity and mainstreams the development of municipal (small-scale) fisheries along with the other sub-sectors. Without this plan, our trade negotiations with Japan will benefit the big players in the industry, but not the fisherfolk.

—JAIME ESCOBER JR.,
information officer,
Tambuyog Development Center,
91 V. Luna Road Extension,
Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

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Inaccurate photo caption

WE wish to comment on a photo featured on the front page of the INQUIRER's July 22 issue. The caption identified the place as "the old dump at Payatas where hundreds perished in a landslide four years ago." The caption was not accurate. The photo was taken not from the site of the tragic incident but from the new dump which is now being used as a controlled dump facility.

The old Payatas dump has been remediated and covered with top soil. It is now being planted with *mongo* to provide nutrients to the soil and in preparation for a massive greening project. Its total land area is almost 12 hectares, 65 percent of which has been reprofiled and compacted; its slopes reduced from 60-70 degrees to only about 23-25 degrees.

A perimeter road of about 6,500 square meters has been constructed to connect the old dump to the new controlled dump facility, and to facilitate the orderly disposal of waste, the efficient collection of leachate and methane gas and the daily declogging operations.

A perimeter fence has likewise been built to prevent children from entering the area.

The conversion of Payatas into a controlled dump facility is being undertaken by the IPM Environmental Services in compliance with Republic Act 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. It is being managed by the Payatas Operations Group under the Office of the Mayor of Quezon City.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine National Oil Co., the methane gas of decaying waste is now being converted into energy which can supply cheaper electricity to thousands of homes near the Payatas dump for the next 10 years. The project was formally inaugurated by President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 10, 2004.

We assure the public and the residents around the Payatas controlled dump facility that, with the help of Divine Providence, the tragic incident which happened four years ago will never be repeated.

We would have been glad to accompany your photographer, Joan Bondoc, on a tour of the entire Payatas area had she approached us during her visit.

Using the photo as proof that the President's 10-point agenda is mere rhetoric is uncalled for and most unfair.

—COL. ROBERTO M. JAYMALIN,
head, Payatas Operations Group,
Office of the Mayor, Quezon City

I AM standing by my caption which states that the photo was taken at the "old dump at Payatas where hundreds perished in a landslide four years ago." It was taken on July 21, 2004, 11 days after the anniversary of the accident attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo. A part of the area has been sanitized or cleaned up (for the President's visit) but if only Col. Roberto Jaymalin cared to walk a little to the left of the marker, he would have seen what my lens captured. I will gladly accompany him if he would just let me enter without the hassle of being interrogated by guards of the fenced-off Payatas controlled dump facility.

—JOAN BONDOC,
Inquirer photographer

DSWD on children staying with inmates

THIS refers to the article titled "Not really a home for these kids," (PDI, 7/14/04) regarding the children of inmates who stay with them at the Pangasinan Provincial Jail.

Please be informed that Emil Samson, provincial social welfare and development officer of Pangasinan, has already advised the jail management of Pangasinan to prohibit the children of the inmates from staying with them in jail. A social worker shall also continuously monitor the situation in jails.

Likewise, our social workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office1 shall regularly visit jails and advocate for the protection of women, children and youth.

Please feel free to inform us or our field offices of similar incidents in the future.

—ALICIA R. BALA,
assistant secretary for Luzon cluster,
Department of Social Welfare
and Development,
Batasang Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Gambling in schools

THE NEWS reports on students deep into gambling confirm what I have long suspected. Many parents have given up on parenting and they expect their kids' teachers to take on their responsibilities.

How else could the young gamblers engage in their secret lives for so long without their parents' having the slightest clue? The parents, who are the last to know, claim innocence or ignorance; or worse, are in a state of denial.

Then they blame teachers for not spotting the clues of deviant behavior. Their reactions are no different from those of other parents whose kids are drug addicts: "My son could not possibly be an addict (gambler)!"

These parents desperately need spiritual guidance and professional help. Prayer time with their kids is necessary. Also, they should submit themselves to counselling centers and "psy-therapy" clinics. They need to step on the brakes of their hectic lives to set aside quality time for their families.

By the way, the reports on young gamblers seem to show that the problem exists only in the schools of the affluent or of the more-able-than-most. Do our students in the public schools have the same problem or are they gambling with something more valuable than money—like sex or even dear life?

—EARL VICTOR L. ROSERO,
communications ministry coordinator,
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish,
Kamuning, Quezon City

Dying for one's country in somebody else's war

GERRY B. Trujillo's "Angelo should have sacrificed himself," (PDI, 7/21/04) was a very brave and patriotic letter for someone just sitting in the comfort of his home. For those who are not in Angelo de la Cruz's shoes, daydreaming of heroics and martyrdom is only a luxury.

It is amusing how Trujillo implied that De la Cruz could have gladly offered his life for the sake of his country and people, especially his fellow overseas Filipino workers, when in the first place what drove De la Cruz to find work in Iraq was not of his own making but the failure of the government to generate enough job opportunities here in the home country.

I cannot fathom how Trujillo imagined De la Cruz slipping a message to his beloved countrymen. More so, with such eloquence.

It is not a privilege to die for our country when we were just dragged into somebody else's war. A war where lives are lost because of a lie. It may be a privilege to die for a cause, but please wake up and smell the thorns, what cause? The cause of being able to work abroad? Where is the gallantry and heroism in that? People must have forgotten that De la Cruz was not in Iraq to fight terrorism. This is somebody else's life we are talking about; let us not play God.

Pulling out the troops was good for De la Cruz and his family and the whole country. If De la Cruz had been executed, I wonder how Trujillo could explain to the driver's eight children how daddy lost his head because 51 fellow Filipinos came home a month late.

It just amazes me why some people feel that other nations are in some way obliged to help clean up George W. Bush's mess.

—IAN ORTEZA,
iorteza@bluewin.ch

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Across the NATION

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Human wastes from US ship causes row

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The serving of the notice of violation against a United States vessel for discharging human wastes into the sea here on July 27 caused a row after officers of the USS Russell refused to accept the citation.

Some officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) also played down the issue by saying that some of their investigators might just have been overzealous in their duties.

An INQUIRER source in the SBMA said a top SBMA seaport official ordered Jerome Martinez, SBMA port operations division head, to withdraw an incident report that he issued on July 29 and, instead, issue a letter of apology to the US vessel for serving a "wrong citation."

Martinez earlier reported that the USS Russell was caught discharging wastes at the Alava Pier here, which, after investigation, turned out to be human wastes.

The wastes, according to the report, were found floating in six square meters of Subic Bay waters. Martinez also reported that some US Navy personnel accosted his investigators taking pictures of the wastes and confiscated their digital camera's diskette.

During an investigation, an SBMA official working at the office of SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo, whom the INQUIRER source identified as executive assistant Ted Peñaflor, also ordered the seaport investigators to stop the investigation and warned not to issue any report on the incident.

The source quoted Peñaflor as explaining that any report about the human waste discharge by the US vessel "might only sour the already sour relationship" between the Philippines and the US as a result of President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision for an early pullout of Philippine troops from Iraq to save the life of Filipino hostage victim, Angelo de la Cruz.

But Martinez proceeded to issue the incident report, which became the basis for the SBMA ecology department to cite the vessel for violating the country's environmental laws and for penalizing the officials of the erring vessel.

Amethya de la Llana, SBMA ecology department head, also ordered the vessel's officials to explain why they confiscated the disk containing a photo-documentation showing the extent of sewage discharge. Her office also ordered the immediate cleanup of the bay.

She fined the vessel $10,000 (P559,500) for the violation. The penalty was the second imposed against a US vessel in three months. In April, the USS Coronado was fined $5,000 (P279,750) for spilling oil in Subic's waters.

"The US should be made to take corrective actions to avoid repetition of these violations," De la Llana said.

"It does not matter where this happened, in fact if this had happened, say in Japan, the penalties would have been more severe," she said.

But the source said officials of the USS Russell and its shipping agent, Global Ship Management Inc., refused to receive the citation.

Rose Baldeo of Global Ship Management Inc. instead called Peñaflor and invited the staff of the ecology department serving the citation for a meeting inside the office of Nicolas Leonzon Jr., SBMA deputy administrator for seaport operations, the source said.

It was not clear what transpired during the meeting. But Leonzon later issued a verbal order for Martinez to withdraw his incident report and instead issue a letter of apology to the USS Russell for serving a "wrong citation."

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Baldeo, Peñaflor and Leonzon on Saturday and Sunday. Baldeo's secretary told the INQUIRER she did not have the mobile phone number of Baldeo.

Martinez on Saturday said they had indeed issued a wrong report about the fecal discharge incident.

"It was already dark then and it could not be that easy to say if the wastes found were indeed human waste," Martinez said.

He said the wastes might just have been driven by tide from a river in Barangay Kalaklan in Olongapo City.

He said the SBMA ecology and seaport departments would again conduct a joint investigation of the incident today.

"But what will be left for us to investigate?" De la Llana said when the INQUIRER asked her if she knew about the reinvestigation.

"Definitely the wastes will no longer be there," she said.

A group of fishermen, Pamalakaya, meanwhile, urged the Arroyo administration to declare Subic Bay off limits to all US warships after the discovery of the waste dumping. *With a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Quake jolts Butuan

BUTUAN CITY—An earthquake measuring about 4.5 in the Richter scale jolted this city and the nearby province of Agusan del Norte around 3:50 a.m. yesterday. Dacy Agonia of the local office of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the quake's epicenter is Butuan City. The city lies atop the Surigao volcanic fault line, he said. There was no immediate report of casualties or damages. ***Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau.***

Teacher fined for slander

BAGUIO CITY—A judge here fined an elementary school teacher P10,200 after the court found her guilty of slander. Judge Caroline Pangan of the Baguio City Municipal Trial Court said Milagros Bolayo was guilty of slander charges for insulting and slapping Diana Grace Empizo, her son's girlfriend, while they were on a bus bound for Kapangan, Benguet, last year. Court records showed that on Jan. 23, 2003, Bolayo slapped Empizo, pulled her hair, kicked her and banged her head against the bus' window while "uttering insulting and defamatory expressions." Empizo told the court that she stopped going to school because of the scandal. Pangan said the case was unusual because the accused is a teacher who is "supposed to act with proper decorum and be a role model." ***Hazel Calventas and Kathleen Taag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 NPA rebels slain

DAVAO CITY—Two communist rebels were killed while four Army soldiers were wounded during a clash in Mabini, Compostela Valley early morning Friday, the military said Saturday. Lt. Col. Edgardo Gonzales, commander of the Army's 60th Infantry Battalion (IB), identified the slain rebels as a certain Choy and a certain Rico. Gonzales declined to name the wounded soldiers but said they were being treated in a hospital. He said the soldiers, led by Lt. Donald Bernaldez, were conducting combat patrol operations in Sitio Darot in Barangay Lubudon when they chanced upon some 50 New People's Army rebels around 4:30 a.m. Gonzales said a 30-minute gunfight ensued between the soldiers and the NPA. Gonzales said soldiers recovered the bodies of the dead guerrillas, an M14 assault rifle and two backpacks with personal belongings. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Davao wharf doubles revenue this year

MATI, Davao Oriental—The dilapidated government-owned Mati wharf has posted a 200-percent increase in revenue for the period January to June, the Philippine Ports Authority said.

Aida Pajo, local PPA chief here, said the increase was due to the decision of foreign shipping firms from India and Papua New Guinea to use the wharf here instead of the more advanced Davao City port because of proximity to their origins.

For 2003, the Mati wharf generated only P3 million. But for the six-month period since January alone, Pajo said the income already hit P6 million.

With the decision of foreign shipping firms to use the wharf instead of the one in Davao City, Pajo said they decided to fasttrack rehabilitation works.

She said Rep. Joel Mayo Almario has already pledged to give more funds.

Pajo said she expects more foreign cargo vessels to dock here with the operation of at least eight multinational mining companies.

"These multinational mining companies said they would use the wharf to load minerals for transport to foreign countries," she said. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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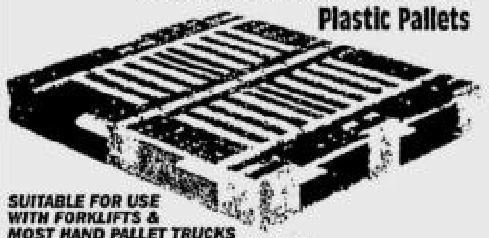

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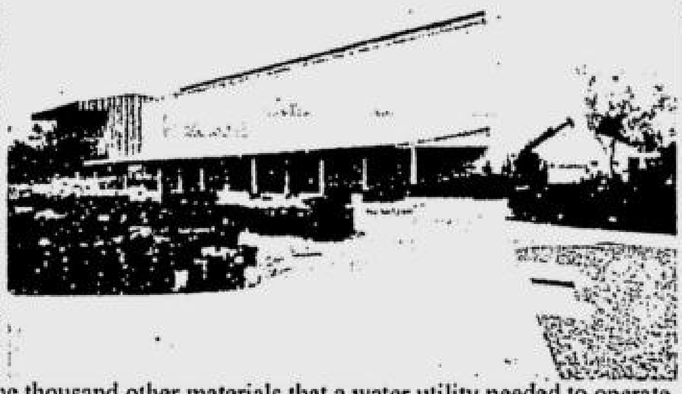
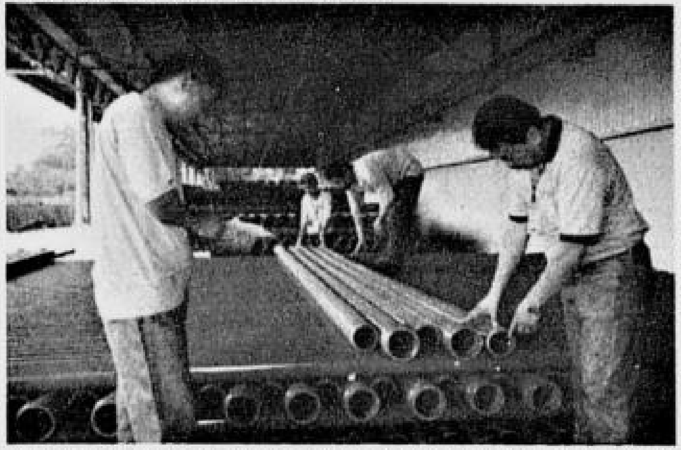
Tuloy-Tuloy Ang Serbisyo

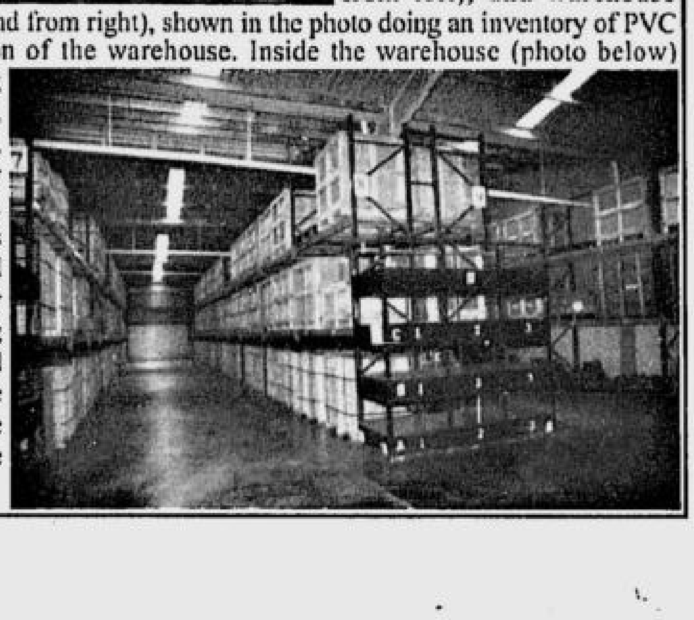
Project : Modernization of Materials Storage, Handling, and Disbursement System
Location : Socca Bonna Warehouse, Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City
Project Start : August 28, 2000
Project Completion : February 24, 2001
Project Cost : P33,369,347.76
Benefits : Uninterrupted, cost-effective, and quick implementation of projects and service delivery to customers in the West Zone concession



After Maynilad Water Services Inc. took over the West Zone in 1997, it immediately began the improvement of the company's logistics services. Central to this effort was the upgrading of the Socca Bonna warehouse, the company's main storage facility located on a 2.5 hectare compound at Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City, where 95 % of the company's stocks are stored. Here was stockpiled helter-skelter the pipes, meters, valves, fittings, bushings, and the thousand other materials that a water utility needed to operate. There was no system in place---record keeping was haphazard, parts had no codes or labels, hunting for, say, a valve or a fitting was like looking for a needle in a haystack, and valuable parts lay in mud, exposed to the elements. The modernization program changed all that. A huge, enclosed warehouse, as can be seen in the photo above, was constructed to secure the stored materials. Concrete roads were built in the compound. And parts were stacked and arranged neatly in the stockyards and inside the warehouse.



A computerized Warehouse Information System was put in place that linked the Socca Bonna with the ten other warehouses in the West Zone concession and used bar codes and scanners to encode, classify and keep track of materials. Identifying, recording and locating a part became a breeze, easing the life of logistics personnel such as warehouse supervisor Bienvenido Roque (right, in left photo), warehousemen Wilbert Bulawin (left) and JudySacil (second from left), and warehouse analyst Julian Licuanan (second from right), shown in the photo doing an inventory of PVC pipes at the canopied section of the warehouse. Inside the warehouse (photo below) stand neat rows of racks holding bins containing water meters, universal fittings, brass fittings, malleable iron fittings and other parts sourced locally and abroad. Since 1997, when MWSS was privatized, the facilities and systems that Maynilad Water inherited from MWSS are being upgraded to enable the men and women of Maynilad to provide the best possible service to the residents of the West Zone concession.



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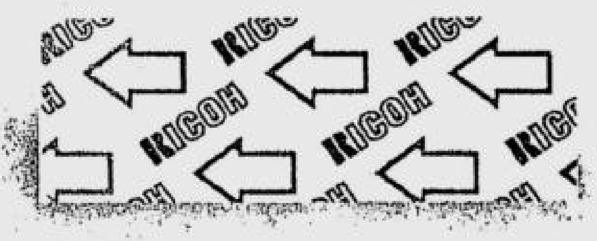

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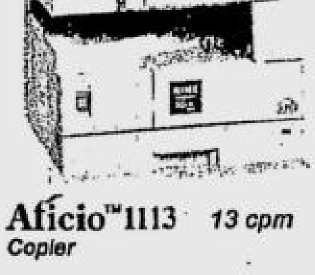

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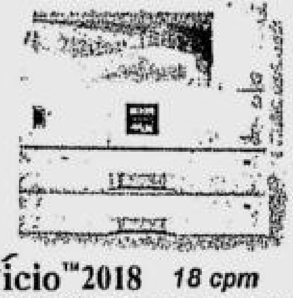

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Farmers fear mine wastes will kill 500 hectares of riceland in Negros

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—More than a hundred farmers in Ayungon town, Negros Oriental are up in arms against a mining company, which they blamed for jeopardizing their livelihood.

A total of 108 farmers in Barangay Banban, Ayungon, about 78 km north of here, filed a complaint before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources against Looc Lead Ores Inc. (LLOI) reportedly an American investor.

They asked the DENR to conduct an investigation, as 30 to 40 hectares of their riceland were covered with residues and other mining wastes that were left on the mountainsides in the areas mined by LLOI.

The farmers said the affected area was "gradually increasing, depriving any vegetation [from growing] on the covered areas and portions of the irrigation canal have been destroyed."

"If this [goes] on unsolved it is estimated that about 500 hectares will be covered by the mining wastes," the complainants led by Rogelio Luang warned.

The complaint said Dugan started his silica mining activity in Banban in 2001. The village is considered one of the biggest rice-producing barangays in Negros Oriental.

Moises Philip Siangco, LLOI vice president for operations, maintained that the complaint was "driven and tainted with sinister ulterior motives," which was to have a leverage against the move of the company to develop its property.

He claimed that many of the farmers, who signed the complaint, were squatting on the company's 17-hectare titled property, which the LLOI planned to develop as a buffer zone.

He, however, said the company would form a team to look into the complaint of farmers who were not among those squatting on the company property.

Sorsogon farmers turn to cassava

CASTILLA, Sorsogon—Farmers here are turning to cassava planting through a local government project that is expected to raise farm incomes.

At least 62 farmers have availed themselves of the Cassava 20/20 program, which provides loans to farmers willing to plant the Golden Yellow and Lakan varieties of cassava.

The local government has set up a P2.6-million fund, of which P2 million goes to fertilizer and land preparation and the rest to cash loan of as much as P13,000 per farmer.

The loan is payable after harvest in full or in installments.

Mayor Renato Laurinaria said his administration had tied up with B-Meg, a feeds company attached to the San Miguel Corp. for the marketing of the produce.

Sunblest Corp., which signed a contract with the local government, buys the harvested crops at P1 per kilo from the farmers and delivers them to the B-Meg processing plant in Pili, Camarines Sur.

Some 98.8 hectares of land have already been planted to cassava here, with 12,500 hectares more targeted for cultivation, said municipal agriculturist Marlyn Quiñones.

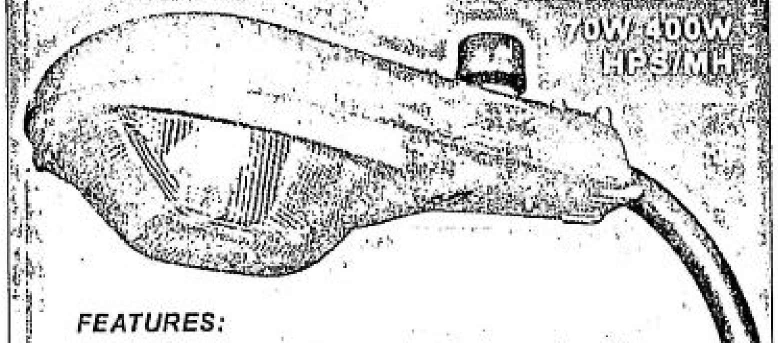
These lands used to be cogonal but the farmers developed them and applied organic fertilizer to the soil, which made its condition good when plowed.

The cassava, which has 8 to 10 months planting season before they could be harvested, are expected to lure more farmers in Castilla in the next planting season.

Councilor Rizalino Lotino, 36, of Barangay Amumunting said the cassava project was good though laborious. He has a 1.8-hectare plantation.

Bibiano Marchan, 67, of Barangay San Vicente, said the mayor's project is a big boost to his family's income.

Both Lotino and Marchan, however, want an increase in the buying rate of Sunblest Corp. from P1 to P2 per kilo but the company denied the farmers' request because the venture would no longer be profitable. *Emir Emano Gamis with a report from Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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The end of the stardust trail to the presidency

From page A1

Of the 45 show biz and media celebrities who ran for national and local office, Poe was the outstanding casualty whose case tested the notion that movie stardom was a free ticket to the presidency.

The entry of show biz celebrities into politics is a phenomenon of recent origin. The first breakthrough came with the election of Rogelio de la Rosa to the Senate in 1957. He ran for president in 1961 but withdrew.

Were it not for De la Rosa's withdrawal, reelectionist President Carlos Garcia could have won. De la Rosa was drawing away votes from the eventual winner, Diosdado Macapagal of the opposition Liberal Party.

The breakthrough opened the wall wider for the bid of actor Joseph Estrada for the presidency in 1998. Estrada's success in the 1998 election was Poe's role model.

The model did not work because Poe and his handlers ignored the fact that Estrada had previous experience in public office, while Poe had absolutely none.

Estrada's success deluded Poe into believing that charisma derived from movie roles that had given him widespread public exposure was sufficient to win the election. His campaign was built on this illusion. This was fatal.

The belief that charisma alone would ensure victory led to the fatal strategy that there was no need for him to engage in public debate to explain policies in which his intellectual deficiencies would be exposed. He shunned debates. This proved disastrous.

The election results showed that the voters wanted to know more about where they were being led than just seeing their movie hero in blood and flesh.

Change in mood

In 2004, the mood of the voters had changed. An Institute of Philippine Culture survey of poor communities—supposedly the natural constituency of Poe—showed that the poor ranked education, experience, platform and track record as among the most important criteria for choosing candidates.

The Estrada voters among the poor could not be transferred to Poe automatically. So, when Poe lost, his defeat came as a shock. More than that, it sent the message that more than charisma was needed to capture Malacañang.

The results challenged assumptions that the stardust trail to the presidency was a fast lane without traps. They stood on its head the dangerous and false assumption that the poor voters, who were deemed ignorant, were more intelligent than thought. At least, the results showed the poor were not stupid.

Both the condescending middle class and Poe's campaign handlers underrated the voters. Both were proved wrong.

The last election proved to be more exacting in its demands on presidential candidates than those in the lower levels. Two TV media celebrities—Senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro—ran for vice president.

De Castro won with Ms Arroyo and Legarda lost with Poe. In the vice presidential race, the celebrity status of the two leading candidates canceled each other out.

In the Senate election, media personalities Jay Sonza, Pilar Pilapil and Boots Anson-Roa lost. Basketball star Robert Jaworski lost also his reelection bid for a Senate seat. However, actors Ramon Revilla Jr., Manuel "Lito" Lapid and Jinggoy Estrada, son of the ex-President, won.

Role of charisma

The increasing number of celebrities elected to Congress, as well as those to local offices, cannot be attributed to charisma alone.

It reflects two things: First, voters are less discriminating in their standards for choosing members of Congress and lower level officials than for the presidency.

Second, it reveals the critical impact of mass media on elections, especially for national offices.

Media personalities enjoy a built-in advantage in public exposure denied to the rest of the candidates. With the decline of the political party as the vehicle for political projection, media exposure replaced that function of parties. TV has become the most expensive cost in election campaigns.

Media celebrities get low-cost exposure, though it can't be said that their near-monopoly of TV exposure has resulted in inputs for a more informed and intelligent public opinion.

The entry of more actors into Congress has not led to a lifting of the quality of debate in the legislature. If the defeat of Poe has done anything at all to improve the selection process of Philippine elections, it is that it has warned that the presidency requires more qualifications of its bidders than mere charisma. It has tightened the entry gates to Malacañang against actors.

Belief overturned

The election overturned the belief that an incumbent president would find it doubly hard to get elected. Ms Arroyo proved this wrong by plotting a campaign strategy that emphasized programs to overcome the disadvantage of her lack of charisma.

Her strategy was based on unfettered access to government resources, building a political machine that covered nationwide grass-roots party infrastructure, and intelligent use of opinion surveys that identified issues the voters cared about.

The charisma-besotted Poe campaign grossly downgraded the crucial importance of political organization. The result is that it had virtually no organization. This was disastrous.

The Poe camp was beguiled by the argument that in the 1998 election, Speaker Jose de Venecia had the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino Party machine but he lost.

What was ignored was that Estrada was not only extremely popular but he was not running against an incumbent president.

In 2004, Poe ran against Ms Arroyo, an incumbent president who happened to know how to maximize the use of government patronage resources for electoral gain.

From this view, it may be said that the last election was a political watershed, not only because it marked the closure of the stardust trail to the presidency.

The election results also signaled the return of the party machine as a critical element to electoral success.

If party-based politics staged a revival in 2004, however, it does not mean that the rejuvenated mainstream parties have moved in a policy-based direction.

Gunmen kill radioman

From page A1

10 km from here, was found lying on a national road after being waylaid in Barangay Santa Cecilia in San Nicolas town.

His death was the first such attack against a member of the Ilocos Norte media.

Police intensified their crackdown against jueteng in the city last week following a resolution from councilors denouncing illegal gambling.

Marcos condemns murder

It was the first occasion that the councilors, who are mostly first-termers, unanimously and publicly denounced local jueteng operations.

Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. denounced the killing of Mariano and ordered Senior Supt. Rolando Rabara, provincial police director, to launch a hunt for his assailants.

In a statement, Marcos said the killing was "another blow to the right of anyone to free speech.

"Mariano was one of the most critical (media practitioners who assailed) the corrupt practices of public officials. He was always in the forefront of this crusade," he said.

The governor said the police were conducting a follow-up operation to recover a white L-300 van that was believed used by the killers.

Why him, wife asks

Mariano left the station at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday after he finished his nightly radio program "Roger Mariano in Action."

"His killers are ruthless. How could they do this to him? He was just doing his job. They could just have paralyzed him, but why did they have to kill him?" the victim's wife Alma said.

In his last radio program before he was killed, Mariano had criticized the city police's handling of the government's anti-jueteng drive but he mentioned no names.

"He was criticizing in general terms. But he singled out the city police for turning a blind eye on jueteng operations despite its being conducted right under their noses," said Temmy Simeon, also a dzJC commentator.

On Saturday night, Mariano discussed the issue of jueteng alternately with the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative's (Inec) alleged mismanagement and supposed illegal transactions.

3 witnesses

"He told me that he got hold of several documents about alleged transactions at Inec which he intended to discuss in his future programs," Simeon said.

Simeon, however, said Mariano never mentioned if there was any threat on his life or if there was any politician who might want him dead.

Mariano's program has a wide listener base. From an initial 30-minute weekly program, "Roger Mariano in Action" became a two-hour nightly news and commentary program.

Alma said several bullets pierced her husband's face while others entered his back.

"I could not stand five minutes seeing his body ... I could not recognize his face," she said.

No death threats

She said she knew nothing about any threats on her husband's life.

PO1 Leonard Battulayan, the case investigator, said three witnesses had been identified who might provide information on the killing.

The police recovered 10 spent shells from an M-16 rifle and a spent shell from an M-1 rifle.

Reports said residents near the ambush site heard bursts of gunfire but did not go out of their houses for fear of their lives.

Alma said her husband's belt bag and mobile phone were missing. Only his wallet containing several identification cards, papers and receipts was retrieved.

The belt bag, Alma said, contained his bank passbook, tape recorders, recording tapes and diskettes.

Mariano started his broadcast career at dzVR-Bombo Radyo in 1990 as a field reporter before becoming its assistant manager.

His first brush with violence occurred sometime in 1996 when he was forcibly taken and loaded into a tricycle by supporters of a police official who was allegedly angered by Mariano's criticisms against him.

Mariano's attackers at that time punched him in the face and body and left him near the San Nicolas town hall.

He later resigned from Bombo Radyo after he was implicated and charged, along with other station personnel, with the killing of a local resident. He was later cleared of the charges.

53rd on death list

According to a combined list of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, Mariano was the 53rd journalist killed in the country since 1986, when democratic institutions were restored after 14 years of dictatorship under the late Ferdinand Marcos.

Mariano was the third Filipino journalist killed this year, following the slaying of newspaper publisher and radio commentator Ruben Endrinal in Legazpi City in February, and of Ely Binoya, a radio commentator of Radyo Natin in South Cotabato, on June 17.

Last year, seven Filipino journalists were killed, putting the Philippines at par with Colombia as one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists.

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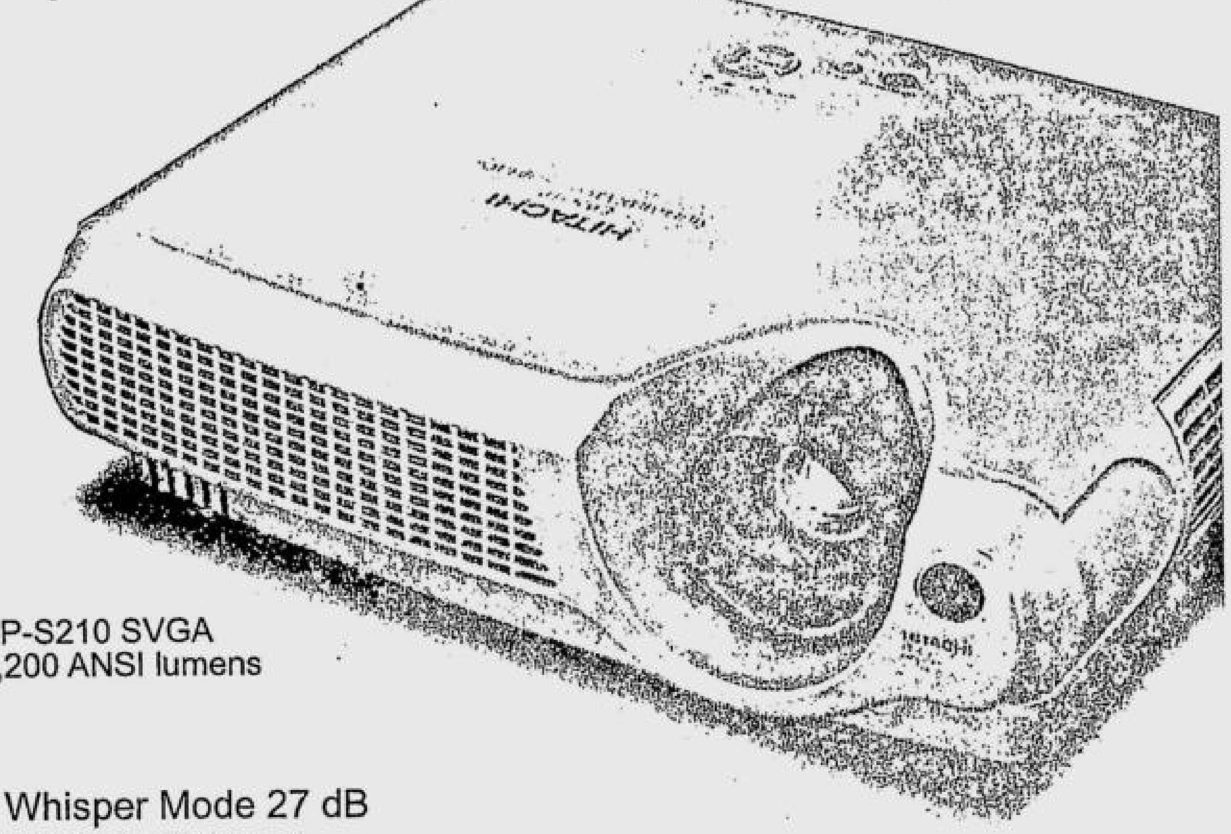

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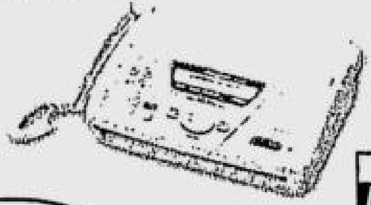

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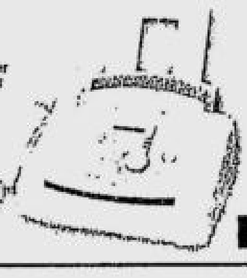

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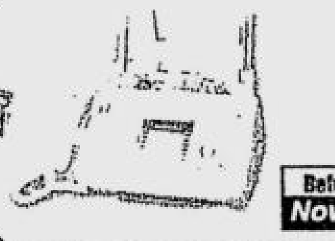

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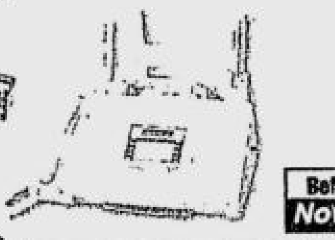

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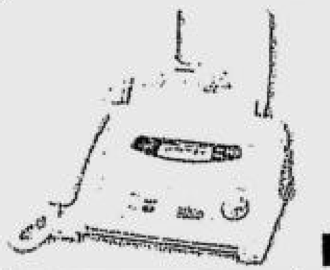

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Party-list system still vague to voters

From page A1

initial stages and it has difficulty legislating its advocacies. You don't get sympathy from traditional politicians."

Akbayan is a multisectoral group composed of different political persuasions that fought the Marcos dictatorship. It advocates the promotion, protection and defense of human rights.

Rosales, now on her third term, was a professor of social and political sciences at the University of the Philippines and Jose Rizal College (now a university) where she led a six-month strike until June 1982 over issues like the non-regularization of teachers. She was also the founding chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers.

Over the years, the idea of proportionality being at the center of the concept of representation in the House of Representatives has proved to be a dismal failure. Of the elective posts, the party-list is the least understood and the least promoted.

"Other district congressmen would always say, 'Everything that you're saying is also our issue,'" Rosales said. "Very sad because landed interest has been a historical obstacle to, for example, the enforcement of genuine agrarian reform."

So undefined is the party-list system that voters still have vague ideas as to what it is. Rosales blamed this on the "chronic inefficiency" of the Comelec in explaining it to the voters come election time.

Party-list Philippine-style is anchored on the principle of proportional representation, which allows a marginalized sector or group to get elected to the House of Representatives.

To get a seat, a party-list group must get 2 percent of the total votes cast for party-list groups in the national elections. The system allows a group to come up with a list of up to five nominees but it can only have three seats at the most. Voters cast ballots for one candidate in their district and a particular party-list group.

The Constitution provides 52 party-list seats in the House, or 20 percent of its entire membership.

Critics claim this setup allows extremist groups to gain legislative seats, gives too much power to sectoral groups, and undermines geographic representation.

But the arrangement also has strong compelling arguments in its favor: It helps the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, particularly women and minorities, gain legislative seats, provides marginalized parties with the opportunity to be heard and to legislate laws, and strengthens platform-based politics.

"By bringing in citizens' parties and marginalized sectors into the lawmaking process, and by imbuing such groups with a national mandate, we are changing the way government is constituted and how political power is allocated in our society," Rosales said.

As in other democracies, the party-list in the Philippines has dramatically increased the representation of women and minority groups. Among the developed countries, Sweden continues to boast the highest percentage of women in the national legislature: 43 percent. In other European parliaments, 50 percent of members come from party-list groups.

To prevent the entry of pseudo-parties, the Supreme Court laid out guidelines when it disqualified several party-list groups, such as the Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of movie actor Richard Gomez, and the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) in 2001.

The MAD was disqualified because it was funded by the government, being an antidrug agency of the Philippine National Police. On the other hand, VFP was disqualified because it was funded and assisted by the government.

A representative assembly, says John Adams in "Thoughts on Government," should be an exact portrait of the people at large. Hence, it should think, feel, reason and act like them.

But according to Kim Bernardo Lokin, formerly a representative of the party-list Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), there is nothing wrong with fielding rich party-list candidates.

"The question should be: Do you really espouse the advocacy of your group? Farmers can argue that although they are marginalized, they can choose the best lawyer to represent them in Congress," Lokin said.

The richest party-list representative with P48 million worth of assets, Lokin spearheaded the controversial "Report-A-Mistress Campaign" in the 12th Congress.

She said the party-list was a novel and noble idea and was partly a solution to political dynasties. It also minimizes vote-buying because the constituency is too large.

Backdoor

Sadly, the party-list is being bastardized by powerful interests, with some traditional politicians seeing this as convenient back door to come in and cling on to power, Lokin said.

Spouses and children of rich families, retired military and police officials, religious leaders, and even show biz personalities see the party-list as the easiest route to Congress.

Three of 16 party-list groups, which made to the 13th Congress, have religious undertones—Cibac, Buhay and Alagad. Three others—Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anak Pawis—have been accused by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales of channeling their pork barrel funds to the Communist Party of the Philippines. The groups have denied Gonzales' allegations.

Cibac is believed to have been formed by the Jesus Is Lord Movement (JIL), which is headed by Bro. Eddie Villanueva, the evangelist who ran but lost in the May presidential election. His son, Rep. Joel Villanueva, is the party's first nominee and president.

Cibac advocates good governance and anti-corruption issues. Most of its members though are JIL members. Villanueva insisted that Cibac was not a religious organization, which is grounds for disqualification. Lokin, in fact, is Roman Catholic.

Velarde's son

Buhay is pro-life, and its first nominee is Rep. Rene Velarde, a son of Bro. Mike Velarde of the El Shaddai Movement.

Velarde, the second richest party-list congressman with assets totaling P28.31 million, said Buhay was separate and distinct from El Shaddai although the latter was supporting Buhay's advocacy of promoting and preserving the life of people "from womb to tomb."

A "Johnny-come-lately" in Congress, Velarde served his initial term as a congressman only in July last year after his party hurdled a temporary restraining order issued against it. He is now on his second term as Buhay congressman.

"You know what caused it?" he said. "I think it is because I am the son of Brother Mike and because El Shaddai supported the party-list's pro-life advocacy."

"The question is, 'Is pro-life advocacy religious in nature?' No, it's not. In its broad spectrum, pro-life takes social and political dimensions, not just religious," the young Velarde said.

"Yes, I am the son of Brother Mike Velarde but I am not Brother Mike. My father is a religious person. I don't know if I am. I'm the black sheep of the family actually," he said.

With Aussie ...

From page A1

farmer and part-time preacher for the New Zealand Anglican Church.

"I was resigned to raising my son in a wheelchair," Joel told the INQUIRER.

Simms was touring Bohol in September last year when he saw Juriel moving around on a skateboard. He met the family through Joel's brother-in-law, who was active in church work.

The missionary was told that the boy's mother Trinidad had contracted German measles—associated with congenital damage—during her pregnancy.

He could not "just walk away" and forget what he saw, Simms was quoted as saying in a June 30 news report in Australia.

The family could not afford to seek solutions to Juriel's handicap. Joel, a hospital clerk, and Trinidad, a fish vendor, had four other children.

When he returned to his country, Simms spread the word about the Amoras. He drew the best results from neighboring Australia.

In March, he had some very good news: Two prosthetics experts, directors Rudi Doller and Eugenio Scanu of the Appliance and Limbs Centre in Sydney, had offered products and services for free.

These would have cost from A$10,000 to A$15,000 (P390,000 to P590,000), Joel said, certainly not an amount he could expect to raise from his wages.

The Filipino Communities Council of Australia, headed by Kate Andres, helped secure travel documents for father and son, who left for Australia on June 16.

A week later, Juriel fitted his new legs and arm. After five more weeks, the boy was walking and embracing his father constantly.

Doller, Scanu, Andres and ALC are not the only names on Joel's thank-you list.

Before the Amoras arrived in Sydney, The Daily Telegraph newspaper was already running their story. During their stay, media interest grew some more.

One of the earlier write-ups had sought out readers who might want to provide lodging for father and son. The story resulted in 200 individual offers. Eventually chosen was a Filipino-Australian family who could speak Tagalog and who, Joel said, requested anonymity.

Juriel's prosthetics need to be replaced yearly. Joel said Simms, who was left behind in Australia, could already be working on Juriel's next trip. The Daily Telegraph website previously quoted the missionary as saying that, for him, it was a "15-year commitment."

But citing travel costs and the enormous effort on the part of Simms and the donors, Joel said he hoped follow-up procedures could be done in the Philippines.

The Amoras spent Saturday night at a hotel in Manila and were expected to be back home in Baclayon, Bohol, yesterday.

Understandably, both father and son feel brand new.

"My wife and I cried when Juriel was born," Joel recalled. It didn't seem like the tears would stop. An orthopedic specialist practically ruled out hope for the boy—including the possibility of using crutches, since he had but one arm.

"Now we can send him to a day-care center," Joel said, smiling. "Just like any other boy."

Good cop vs bad cop

From page A1

campaign against law enforcers engaged in arrest-and-extort operations has found flesh in agents of the Philippine National Police, who are being deployed to spy on fellow officers.

Called "honesty teams," the upright lawmen are tasked with taking pictures or videos of comrades in the act of fleecing hapless victims.

This is a brainchild of Central Luzon Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, whose area of jurisdiction has been besieged by reports of holdup men in uniform.

Querol said each team of three to four members consists of the "most honest and most dedicated" officers from the regional or provincial police office. He told the INQUIRER: "It's not difficult to find men for this operation; we have many of them in the PNP."

For a start, honesty teams have been deployed along the North Luzon Tollway and other major thoroughfares, such as the Olongapo-Gapan, Cagayan Valley, Cabanatuan-Zaragoza-Tarlac, and the Magalang-Concepcion corridors.

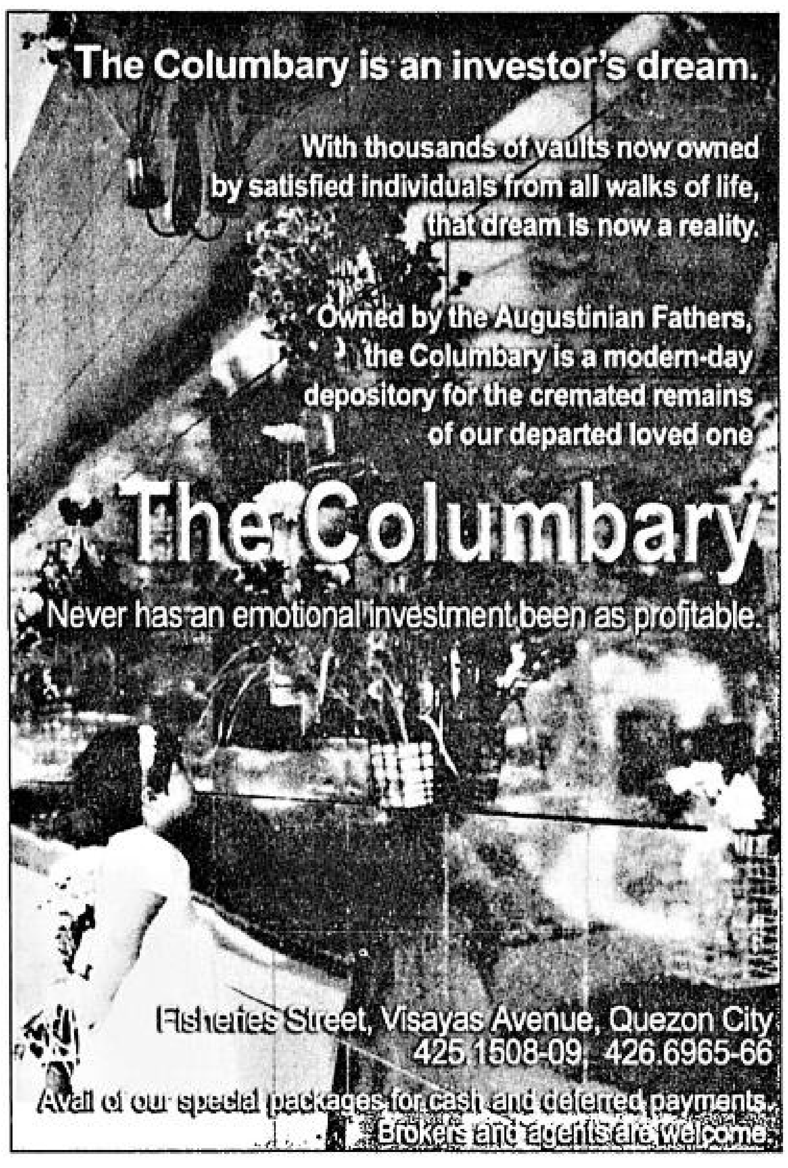
Some teams have reported seeing motorists tossing crumpled bills at police checkpoints, in obvious anticipation of "some phony violation," Querol said. His somewhat belated assessment: the problem is serious.

"Traders and merchants of farm commodities shouldn't have to shell out bribe money, which translate to higher prices," he added. "The public always bears the brunt."

Querol admitted that the term "honesty teams" was calculated to put pressure on the squad members and the police organization as a whole, especially following recent arrests of cops said to be blackmailing drug users.

He said the program could next be implemented in Metro Manila, where "90 percent" of "*kotong*" cases are recorded.

"In Manila, the standard of living is higher," Querol pointed out. "The pressure and temptation for the policeman to make more money is also bigger."



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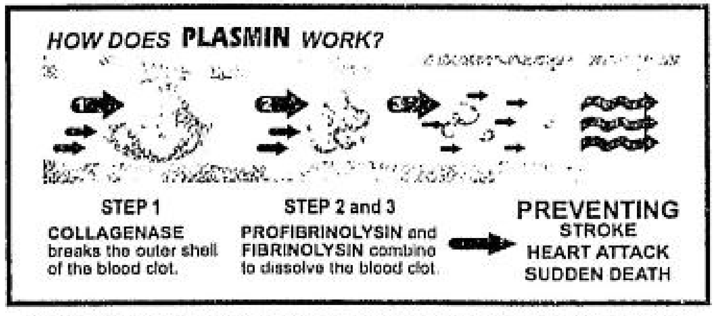
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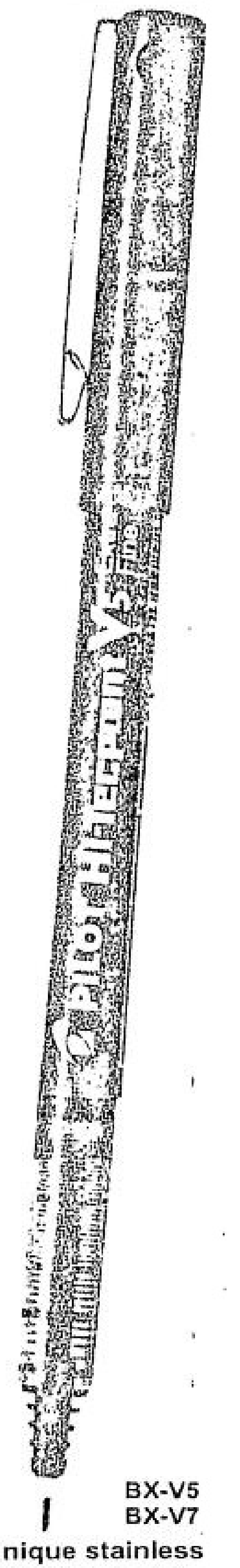

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MANDALUYONG BUS HOLDUP

Lone policeman outguns 3 suspects

ERIK ARAZAS

CRASH
No one was seriously injured when a Mitsubishi Pajero (right center) crashed and uprooted a lamp post along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City and hit a jeepney carrying a family of seven. The incident happened early Sunday morning.

COURAGE and presence of mind make a hero.

On Saturday night, Senior Police Office 1 Charlito G. Corpuz of the Mandaluyong police stopped a bus robbery by shooting it out with three unidentified suspects.

Although wounded in the gunplay, Corpuz managed to slay the three robbers who tried to prey on passengers of a JMK-JOJO passenger bus at about 9:30 p.m. along Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

Corpuz told investigators that he was on his way to work at about 8 p.m. when he took the bus bound for Pacita Complex in Fairview, Quezon City.

He said he took a seat directly behind bus driver Dante Mendoza of Cinco Hermanos subdivision, Marikina City.

Boarded near Crame

Upon reaching the bus stop along Edsa, in front of Camp Crame, three men came aboard.

Bus conductor Sergio Rafal Jr. later told police that one of the men sat on the conductor's seat, which was beside the driver.

Another man sat three seats away at the driver's back row, which the third proceeded to the last seat and sat in the middle fronting the aisle.

As the bus was approaching the intersection of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard, the man sitting beside the driver suddenly pulled out a .38-caliber revolver and pointed it on the neck of Mendoza.

"*Sumunod ka sa gusto ko o sasamain ka* (Do as I say or you'll be sorry)," said the suspect, who then ordered the driver to take the underpass.

The suspect in the middle of the bus simultaneously pulled out a homemade .45-caliber pistol and announced a holdup before ordering passengers to face down.

The suspect at the end of the bus also pulled out a .38-caliber revolver as he acted as a lookout.

One quick move

Realizing what was happening, Corpuz, who was in casual clothes, quickly pulled out his .45-cal. pistol and immediately shot the suspect beside the driver.

As he turned to shoot at the other suspects, the suspect behind him opened fire and hit him in the right hand.

But instead of losing heart, Corpuz took the gun using his left hand and continued shooting.

When the smoke cleared, the three suspects were bloodied and dead.

Corpuz, along with passenger Rolando Gaddi, 31, who was hit by a stray bullet in the left foot, were rushed to the Dr. Victor Potenciano Hospital for treatment.

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REYES, Jenina Marie D.	BS Statistics	De La Salle University
ROGEL, Edward Andrew P.	BS Management Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
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(PDI – August 1, 2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 & 28-30, 2004)

Probe of building collapse widened

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE GOVERNMENT is not taking any chances.

Following the fall of the eight-story Sai Building in Divisoria, Manila, a team of volunteer engineers will be inspecting other buildings within an entire block around ground zero.

"There would be a next round of inspections so we could screen buildings around it," said Benito Pacheco, an engineer who is president of the Disaster Quick Response Team (DQRP).

The team has been tapped by the defense department's Office of Civil Defense.

"We would check buildings around a block on each direction of the building," said Pacheco, whose group is usually called upon to check the stability of buildings following earthquakes.

Inspection schedule

The Manila government will be scheduling the buildings for inspection. However, local officials have yet to relay to the DQRP the number of buildings they would be asked to check.

Pacheco said that to be prioritized for a stability check were buildings closest to Sai because owners of these buildings seemed the "most worried."

Fears are rife that the fall of the building was due to its soil foundation. Buildings close to Sai all sit on the same kind of soil.

The DQRP, composed of members of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers and the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, had inspected four buildings closest to Sai, which used to stand at the corner of Padre Rada and Juan Luna Streets in Tondo.

The team has checked Harvard Building on Juan Luna Street, the eight-story structure that Sai's fall had damaged, CKS building also on Juan Luna Street across Sai, S&U Building at the left side of Sai, and residential RCS Building along Padre Rada Street beside the collapsed building.

Buildings safe

Their check showed that the buildings were safe after the collapse and that there was no problem on the ground below the buildings, thus Sai's fall "appears to be a local problem."

For the other buildings scheduled for inspection, Pacheco said that teams of two to three volunteer engineers would be assigned to each structure.

The teams would be using a standard evaluation sheet which would record the presence of cracked walls or beams, sloping ground level, leaning walls or partial collapses in the buildings.

Highest tide sinks Navotas, Malabon

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FLOOD sank many roads in Malabon City and Navotas yesterday noon as the tide rose by two meters, its highest level this month.

Even roads leading to the Malabon City Hall, the Navotas police station and the Northern Police District headquarters were under water.

Thankfully, the rains did not pour hard yesterday so floodwater subsided several hours later. The bad news is the same tide level will be experienced at 11:52 a.m. today.

In northern Metro Manila, flooding is a normal occurrence, but with the higher than usual tide, officials say it is still best to be ready and cautious.

A present danger

For starters, parents should not allow their children to wade or swim in floodwater because the risk of drowning is always present, Malabon City social welfare and development head Bernardita Galicia said.

Children playing in floodwater are also exposed to viral infections like influenza because of the usual presence of garbage, noted Malabon City health officer Roberto Romero.

Romero pointed out that even those who just have to walk in flooded streets were exposed to skin infections. And there's the risk of getting athlete's foot.

It is better to stay indoors when water is high as flood due to high tide usually subsides after a few hours. But if you have to walk through the flood, use rubber boots to protect your feet, Romero added.

BF says MMDA helps clear air

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IMPROVEMENT in traffic also means improvement in air quality.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that his agency had contributed to the clearing of the air in Metro Manila through its successful traffic improvement projects.

Fernando was referring to a Department of Environment and Natural Resources report last Friday that claimed that the quality of air in the metropolis was "within the acceptable levels set by the 1999 Clean Air Act."

The MMDA chair said that the agency's traffic schemes like the clearway or U-turn slot scheme had improved road travel time by almost 70 percent or from 14 kilometers per hour (kph) to 25 kph.

"Improvement in travel time means there would be less gas emissions which could pollute the air because vehicles would have lesser time on the road," Fernando explained.

MALIBAY
TEAM
50 FIRST DATES

HOPE OF THE NATION
Senator Manny Villar helps out in making herbal soap during a Sipag at Tiyaga caravan in Pasay City recently. Villar visited the INQUIRER recently and said that Filipino entrepreneurship was the key to the nation's progress and development.

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Lower Third Rectal Carcinoma
Hepatocellular Carcinoma

DEBATES

Treatment of Well-Deifferentiated Thyroid Cancer
Treatment of Perforated Peptic Ulcer
Treatment of Non-localized Massive Lower GI Bleeding
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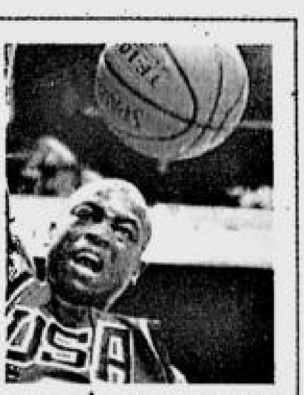

- IM Sanchez ties for 2nd /A27
- Ardina, Tabuena triumph /A28
- Suspensions rock US five /A29
- Federer, Roddick forge big rematch /A31

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League-Bobcats vs Bulls; 11 a.m. (r-12:30 a.m.); Solar Sports—The NBA's newest franchise, Charlotte, takes on Chicago.

Usab World Tour-USA vs Puerto Rico; 10 p.m.; Solar Sports—The US Olympic Team takes on Puerto Rico in this warm-up for Athens.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Archers, Tigers pull off thrilling Houdini acts

By Jasmine W. Payo

SOPHOMORE guard JV Casio finally displayed his deadly form.

Last season's Rookie of the Year drilled a turnaround jumper with only 20 seconds left to lead De La Salle past University of the Philippines, 69-68, yesterday in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"We needed a game like this to get over the hump. We've been playing tight. It's a good sign that in spite of being down, we climbed up. It's also a breakout game for Casio, who has been struggling since we lost to Ateneo. It's good his composure is still there," said coach Franz Pumaren after the Archers took solo third with a 4-2 slate.

KING Archer Cardona plays second fiddle this time to teammate Casio. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

The first varsity match was another squeaker as Danny Pribhdas dodged a tight defensive effort then fired a buzzer-beating jumper that lifted University of Santo Tomas over University of the East, 74-72.

Pribhdas, who briefly fumbled before he took the game-winning shot, struggled in the first half but the ball fell on the hands of the junior swingman when it counted most and he bravely put in the decider.

"I give credit to Danny Pribhdas. *Buo ang loob niya* (he didn't think twice) when he made the shot. My only instruction was that whoever has the ball should go for the shot," said UST coach Nel Parado, who once played with UE coach Dindo Pumaren in the San Beda junior team.

UE and UST, along with Adamson, are now tied for fourth with a 3-3 record. UP absorbed its fifth consecutive loss in as many outings.

La Salle veterans Joseph Yeo and Mac Cardona took charge in the final period as they razed a 15-point UP lead in the third quarter to give the Archers a 67-66 margin in the final two minutes.

Josant Cervantes gave the lead back to UP, but Casio countered with the game-winning basket.

The Maroons still had 20 seconds left to turn the game around but center Mark Benitez foiled UP's final play.

Yeo finished with 23 points, while Cardona added 14.

UST veteran Christian Luanzon topscored with 19 points, while Jun Cortez chipped in 14.

The Tigers squandered a 14-point margin in the first half as Paolo Hubalde and Luis Palaganas Jr. combined in a fourth-quarter charge that boosted the Warriors ahead, 71-68, three minutes to go.

In junior play, UST extended its winning streak to five as the Tiger Cubs foiled Adamson, 73-67. The Baby Falcons, last year's runners-up, dropped to 1-3.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UST 73—Mejica 15, Basa 13, Fran 12, Panahon 12, Crisostomo 7, Revereza 7, Alnajes 3, Badua 3, Abad 1, De la Cruz 0.

ADAMSON 67—Aguilo 21, Corpuz 17, Balila 16, Gomez 6, Villasin 3, Ducus 2, Balete

ARCHERS/ A26

Taguig cagers get back at Ilonggos

TAGUIG—Veteran guard Ogie Gumatay scored 13 of his 16 points in the final quarter Saturday as Forward Taguig got back at the visiting Iloilo Warriors, 93-80, in the Northern division of the NBC (National Basketball Conference) at the C.P. Tinga Memorial gym here.

After Jimmy Boy Robillos hit two straight baskets with the Warriors within striking distance at 59-62 going into the payoff period, Gumatay banged in seven unanswered points to give Taguig a 73-67 advantage, time down to 5:49.

A three-pointer by Noel David in the last 3:19 increased the lead to 82-69, which Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig squad protected en route to its third win in eight games.

The setback was only the second in seven outings for the Warriors.

The Warriors continue their northern swing today when they play the Batangas 29ers at 5:30 p.m. at the Lipa Cultural and Convention Center in Lipa City.

The scores:

TAGUIG 93—Gumatay 16, Ricafuente 14, Magsalin 13, Robillos 12, Vilar 9, Tama 7, Bernardino 7, Magsumbol 6, David 5, De Guia 2, Alberto 2.

ILOILO 80—Sayon 20, Sanz 17, Sinco 14, Allado 13, Moreno 10, Marucot 6, Poral 0, Bragamonte 0, Senerez 0, Sencil 0.

Quarters: 21-13, 44-35, 62-59, 93-80.

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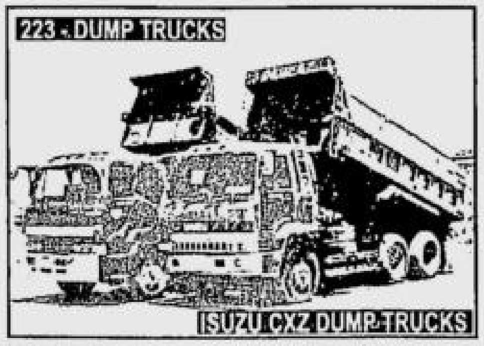

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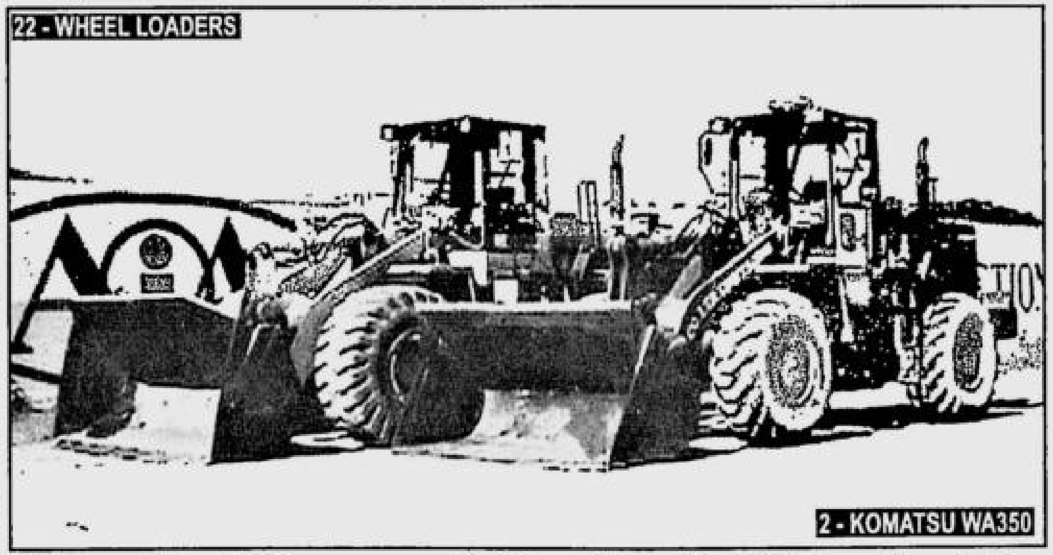

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UCAA joins crowded cage scene Aug. 5

ALL eyes will be on defending champion St. Francis of Assisi, but expect other teams to rise to the challenge when the third season of the Universities and Colleges Athletics Association (UCAA) basketball tournament fires off Thursday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Doves, champions the past two seasons, remain the team to beat in the eight-school league although the rest of the field, including host Emilio Aguinaldo College, is expected to crowd them for the title.

The Generals' strength will be put to the test by La Salle-Dasmariñas in the first game of a four-game bill on opening day.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and sportscaster-columnist Quinito Henson have been invited as special guest and speaker during the program.

St. Francis battles Philippine School of Business Administration at 11:30 a.m., while La Salle-Manila plays Colegio de San Lorenzo at 1 p.m.

Olivarez College and National College of Business and Arts collide in the last game at 2:30 p.m.

GAMES THURSDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
9 a.m.—Opening ceremony
10 a.m.—EAC vs DLSU-D
11:30 a.m.—SFAC vs PSBA
1 p.m.—DLSU-M vs CDSL
2:30 p.m.—OC vs NCBA

Archers, Tigers pull off

From page A25

2, Mariwa 0, Reano 0.

Quarters: 16-19, 38-34, 54-56, 73-67.

Second Game (Srs)

UST 74—Luanzon 19, Cortez 14, De Guzman 9, Vizcarra 7, Pribhdas 7, Manching 7, Dizon 4, Espiritu 3, Evangelista 2, Allera 2, Duncil 0.

UE 72—Canaleta 21, Hubalde 11, Masbang 8, Palaganas 8, Arellano 7, Saguindel 7, Dizon 5, Labagala 5, Tabaquero 0, Napo 0, Acuna 0.

Quarters: 24-17, 39-35, 60-52, 74-72.

Third Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 69—Yeo 23, Cardona 14, Casio 8, Gaco 7, Cabatu 6, Maierhoffer 3, Benitez 3, Tang 2, Gavino 2, Villanueva 1, Walsham 0, Gatchalian 0.

UST 68—Epres 12, Almeda 12, David 10, Santos 9, Cervantes 7, Cruz 5, Agbayani 4, Ibañes 3, Bienvenida 2, Buyco 2, Ferrer 2, Ortega 0, Quebral 0.

Quarters: 8-15, 33-37, 49-60, 69-68.

GAMES THURSDAY (*Philsports*)
9:30 a.m.—NU vs UST (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Srs)
*4 p.m.—FEU vs UP (Srs)
6 p.m.—UP vs UE (Jrs)
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Still no foe for Barrera fight

MARCO Antonio Barrera's next fight is set on Nov. 27 against a still unknown opponent.

However, universal featherweight king Manny Pacquiao and WBO No. 1 super featherweight Mike Anchondo are high on the list of Barrera's prospective rivals.

Marylyn Aceves, chief of public relations for Barrera's Golden Boy Promotions, in an interview with mannypacquiao.ph, revealed that "the Saturday fight date has been sealed for the possible pay-per-view event."

"We are considering the best options for Barrera. Definitely, he will fight on Nov. 27," Aceves was quoted as saying.

Barrera, who is coming off a knockout win over Paulie Ayala, is hoping to avenge his defeat at the hands of Pacquiao last November and the possibility of a rematch on Nov. 27 is not remote.

If Barrera is pitted against the unbeaten 22-year-old Anchondo (25-0, 18 KOs), who campaigns in the 130-lb division, the Mexican boxing idol would have to climb a notch higher and aim for a possible Barrera-Morales III.

Also being considered for Pacquiao is WBO titlist Scott Harrison of England. Pacquiao and his handlers are planning to hold the bout in the Philippines.

Salven L. Lagumbay

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	1:30-8:30	Sat	Sep04-Oct09
Electro-Pneumatics P4,800/42hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Sep13-Oct01
	8:00-4:00	Sat	Aug21-Sep25
Basic PLC P4,800/42hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Sep10
	8:00-12:00	M-Th	Sep20-Oct07
	1:30-8:30	Sat	Sep04-Oct09
	8:00-4:00	Sun	Aug29-Oct03
Advance PLC P5,400/42hrs	8:00-12:00	M-Th	Aug23-Sep10
	5:30-8:30	M-F	Sep13-Sep30
	8:00-4:00	Sat	Aug28-Oct02
Calibration for Process Instrumentation P4,800/36hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Sep10
	8:00-3:00	Sat	Aug21-Sep25
Industrial Process Controls P4,800/36hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Sep13-Oct01
	2:00-8:00	Sat	Sep04-Oct09
SCADA Visualization using Wonderware InTouch P4,800/36hrs	1:00-5:00	WThF	Sep01-Sep17
	8:00-12:00	M-F	Sep20-Sep30
	9:00-4:00	Sat&Sun	Aug28-Sep12
	9:00-4:00	Sat&Sun	Sep25-Oct10
Process Automation Course P8,600/72hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Oct01
Machine Automation Course	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Oct22

ELECTRICAL

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Industrial Electrician P4,500/66hrs	8:30-12:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct09
	1:30-6:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct09
	5:30-9:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct09
	8:30-5:30	Sat	Aug14-Oct02
	8:30-5:30	Sun	Aug15-Oct03
Building Wiring Installation and Maintenance P4,500/60hrs	8:30-12:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct05
	5:30-9:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct05
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug21-Oct09
Electrical Control Wiring Installation and Troubleshooting P4,500/48hrs	5:30-8:30	M-Th	Sep06-Sep30
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Sep18-Oct23
Motor and Transformer Rewinding P4,500/60hrs	5:30-9:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct05
AutoCAD P4,800/72hrs	8:30-12:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct11
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	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug28-Oct23
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug29-Oct24
Advanced Industrial Motor Control P4,500/60hrs	5:30-8:30	M-Th	Sep06-Oct07
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug21-Oct09

MECHANICAL

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Lathe Machine Operation P7,000/40hrs	5:00-9:00	MTThF	Aug23-Sep07
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Milling Machine Operation P7,000/40hrs	5:00-9:00	MTThF	Aug23-Sep07
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Basic CAD/CAM P4,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Sep09
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
CNC Milling Programming P4,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Sep09
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Gas Welding Cutting & Brazing P5,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Sep09
	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Office 2000 (MSWord, MSExcel, MSPowerPoint) P8,000/48hrs	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Aug16-Sep02
	6.00-9.00	M-Fri	Sep06-Sep27
	6.00-9.00	M-Fri	Oct04-Oct25
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Sep18-Oct23
Program Logic Formulation P5,000/30hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Sep06-Sep21
	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Aug16-Aug31
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Sep06-Sep21
	3.30-8.30	Sat	Aug21-Sep25
Developing Web Animation using Flash P5,500/24hrs	8.30-11.30	M-Th	Aug30-Sep09
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Aug16-Aug26
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Sep13-Sep23
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Aug14-Sep04
Web Page Designing using Dreamweaver P6,000/30hrs	3.30-8.30	Sat	Aug28-Oct02
	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Sep06-Sep21
Macromedia Flash ActionScript P6,000/24hrs	8.30-8.30	Sat	Sep13-Sep23
	8.00-3.00	M-Th	Sep11-Oct02
Visual Basic.Net Fundamentals P8,500/45hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Sep20-Oct13
	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Oct25-Nov17
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Sep20-Oct13
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Oct25-Nov17
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Oct02-Nov06
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Oct03-Nov07
Programming in C++ P6,500/36hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Aug16-Sep02
	1.30-4.30	M-Th	Sep06-Sep23
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Aug16-Sep02
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Aug28-Oct02
Object Oriented Programming in C++ P6,500/36 hrs	9.00-4.00	Sun	Aug22-Sep26
JAVA Programming Fundamentals P7,500/42hrs	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Sep06-Sep28
	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Oct11-Nov02
Developing Applications in JAVA P7,500/42hrs	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Sep06-Sep28
Introduction to Oracle 9i: SQL P10,000/48 hrs.	9.00-12.00	M-Th	Aug16-Sep09
	6.00-9.00	M-Th	Aug16-Sep09
	8.00-3.00	Sat	Sep18-Nov06
Network Technology P7,000/45hrs	9.00-4.00	M-Th	Aug09-Aug19
	9.00-5.00	M-Th	Aug23-Sep02
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Aug23-Sep16
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Sep20-Oct13
	9.00-4.00	Fri	Sep17-Nov05
	9.00-4.00	Sat	Oct23-Dec11
	9.00-4.00	Sun	Oct24-Dec12
Administering Windows Networks P9,000/54hrs	9.00-4.00	Fri	Aug13-Oct08
	9.00-5.00	Sat	Oct16-Dec04
	10.00-5.00	TWTh	Aug24-Sep09
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Aug15-Sep26
	8.00-5.00	Sun	Oct10-Nov21
Administering Windows Network Infrastructure P9,000/48hrs	6.00-9.00	TWTh	Sep07-Oct12
Linux System Administration (Linux+) P8,200/45hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Aug16-Sep03
	9.00-12.00	M-F	Sep01-Sep21
	1.30-4.30	M-F	Aug09-Aug27
	1.30-4.30	M-F	Sep01-Sep21
	9.00-4.00	Sun	Aug22-Oct10
Linux Network Administration P6,500/30hrs	5.00-9.00	MWF	Aug09-Aug26
	5.00-9.00	MWF	Aug30-Sep15
	9.00-4.00	Sat	Aug14-Sep11
SQUID P2,000/8hrs	1.00-5.00	W&F	Aug25&Aug27
CISCO 1 P8,000/70hrs	8.00-4.00	Sat	Aug21-Oct23
CISCO 2 P8,000/70hrs	1.00-5.00	M&F	Aug16-Oct15
CISCO 4 P8,000/70hrs	5.30-8.30	MWF	Aug16-Oct08

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Certificate No.: AJA.04.0006

AUTOMOTIVE/RAC

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Basic Driving Course P6,000/15hrs	8.00-12.00	Sun	Aug07-Sep25
Auto Engine Electrical P3,000/42hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep09
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Aug23-Sep09
Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep13
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	9.00-12.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep17
	2.00-5.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep17
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep17
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Aug23-Sep17
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep03
	8.00-12.00	Sun	Aug29-Oct17
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/48hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Aug23-Sep13
Underchassis Mechanic P3,900/60hrs	2.00-5.00	M-F	Aug23-Sep17
Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic P4,500/60hrs	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Aug23-Sep23

ELECTRONICS

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Basic Electronics P3,900/36hrs	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Aug16-Aug30
	1.00-5.00	M-Th	Sep06-Sep20
	5.30-8.30	M-Th	Sep06-Sep20
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,300/36hrs	8.00-12.00	M-Th	Aug16-Aug30
	1.00-5.00	T-F	Aug17-Aug31
	1.00-5.00	T-F	Sep21-Oct05
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8.30-12.00	M-Th	Aug16-Aug31
	8.30-12.00	M-Th	Sep06-Sep21
	1.00-5.00	T-Th	Aug16-Aug30
	1.00-5.00	T-Th	Sep14-Sep30
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8.30-12.00	M-Th	Aug16-Aug31
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Television & Monitor Servicing P3,900/36hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Aug16-Aug31
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Sep06-Sep21
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P4,800/27hrs	5.30-8.30	M-F	Aug16-Aug26
	5.30-8.30	M-F	Sep06-Sep16
	8.00-5.00	Sat	Aug28-Sep25
Home Video Editing P3,300/16hrs	8.00-12.00	Sat	Sep04-Sep25

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Enhancing Communication Skills P3,500/21hrs	9.00-5.00	Sat	Aug07-Aug21
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,500/21hrs	9.00-5.00	Sat	Aug21-Sep04
Customer Service P3,500/21hrs	9.00-5.00	Sat	Aug07-Aug21

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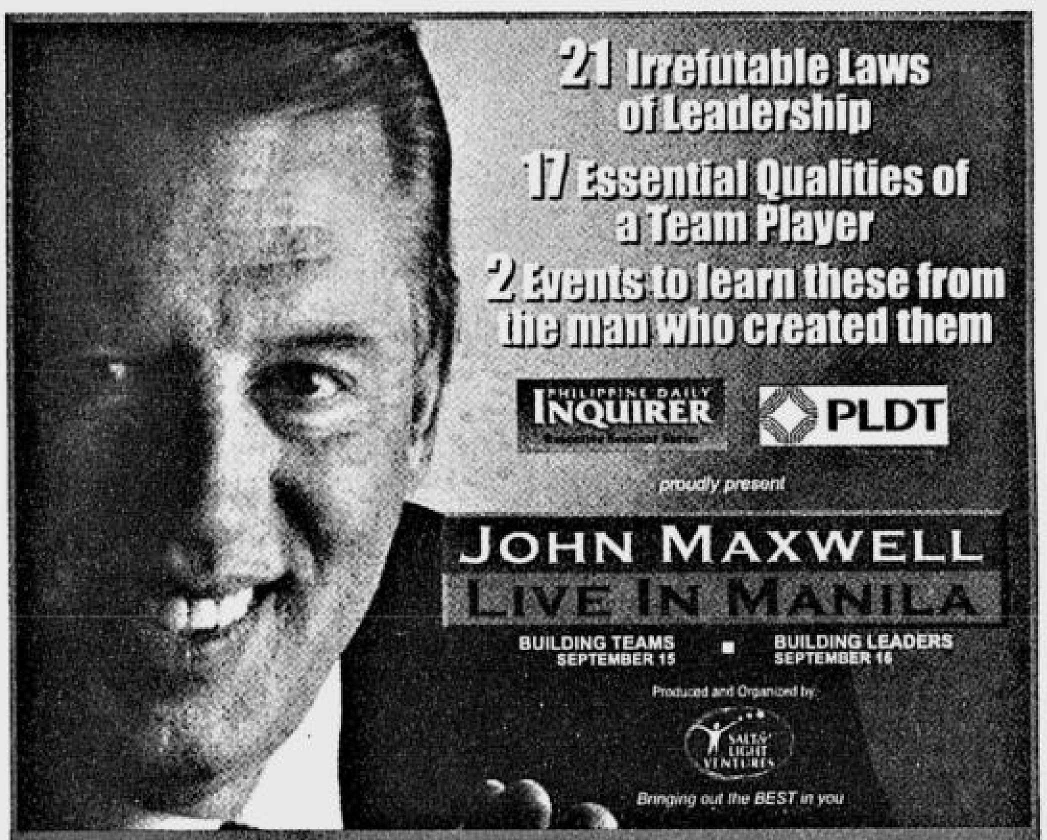

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17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player
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Acquiring the 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player
Be the Person Every Team Wants
Opening Session by **Francis Kong**
Araneta Coliseum, September 15, 2004, 6 PM to 9:30 PM
Regular Ticket prices at
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Follow Them and People Will Follow You (With A CEO Roundtable Lunch)
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UCAA joins crowded cage scene Aug. 5

ALL eyes will be on defending champion St. Francis of Assisi, but expect other teams to rise to the challenge when the third season of the Universities and Colleges Athletics Association (UCAA) basketball tournament fires off Thursday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Doves, champions the past two seasons, remain the team to beat in the eight-school league although the rest of the field, including host Emilio Aguinaldo College, is expected to crowd them for the title.

The Generals' strength will be put to the test by La Salle-Dasmariñas in the first game of a four-game bill on opening day.

GAMES THURSDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
9 a.m.—Opening ceremony
10 a.m.—EAC vs DLSU-D
11:30 a.m.—SFAC vs PSBA
1 p.m.—DLSU-M vs CDSL
2:30 p.m.—OC vs NCBA

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and sportscaster-columnist Quinito Henson have been invited as special guest and speaker during the program.

St. Francis battles Philippine School of Business Administration at 11:30 a.m., while La Salle-Manila plays Colegio de San Lorenzo at 1 p.m.

Olivarez College and National College of Business and Arts collide in the last game at 2:30 p.m.

Archers, Tigers pull off

From page A25

2, Mariwa 0, Reano 0.

Quarters: 16-19, 38-34, 54-56, 73-67.

Second Game (Srs)

UST 74—Luanzon 19, Cortez 14, De Guzman 9, Vizcarra 7, Pribhdas 7, Manching 7, Dizon 4, Espiritu 3, Evangelista 2, Allera 2, Duncil 0.

UE 72—Canaleta 21, Hubalde 11, Masbang 8, Palaganas 8, Arellano 7, Saguindel 7, Dizon 5, Labagala 5, Tabaquero 0, Napo 0, Acuna 0.

Quarters: 24-17, 39-35, 60-52, 74-72.

Third Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 69—Yeo 23, Cardona 14, Casio 8, Gaco 7, Cabatu 6, Malerhoffer 3, Benitez 3, Tang 2, Gavino 2, Villanueva 1, Walsham 0, Gatchajian 0.

UST 68—Epres 12, Almeda 12, David 10, Santos 9, Cervantes 7, Cruz 5, Agbayani 4, Ibañes 3, Bienvenida 2, Buyco 2, Ferrer 2, Ortega 0, Quebral 0.

Quarters: 8-15, 33-37, 49-60, 69-68.

GAMES THURSDAY (*Philsports*)
9:30 a.m.—NU vs UST (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Srs)
*4 p.m.—FEU vs UP (Srs)
6 p.m.—UP vs UE (Jrs)
Live on Studio 23

Still no foe for Barrera fight

MARCO Antonio Barrera's next fight is set on Nov. 27 against a still unknown opponent.

However, universal featherweight king Manny Pacquiao and WBO No. 1 super featherweight Mike Anchondo are high on the list of Barrera's prospective rivals.

Marylyn Aceves, chief of public relations for Barrera's Golden Boy Promotions, in an interview with mannypacquiao.ph, revealed that "the Saturday fight date has been sealed for the possible pay-per-view event."

"We are considering the best options for Barrera. Definitely, he will fight on Nov. 27," Aceves was quoted as saying.

Barrera, who is coming off a knockout win over Paulie Ayala, is hoping to avenge his defeat at the hands of Pacquiao last November and the possibility of a rematch on Nov. 27 is not remote.

If Barrera is pitted against the unbeaten 22-year-old Anchondo (25-0, 18 KOs), who campaigns in the 130-lb division, the Mexican boxing idol would have to climb a notch higher and aim for a possible Barrera-Morales III.

Also being considered for Pacquiao is WBO titlist Scott Harrison of England. Pacquiao and his handlers are planning to hold the bout in the Philippines.

Salven L. Lagumbay

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"Cinema, Leadership & Society"

Chew Choon Seng
CEO, Singapore Airlines
"Global Brand Leadership: An Asian Perspective"

Warren Bennis
Chairman, Centre for Public Leadership
Harvard University
"Leadership Crucibles: How Do We Build Better Leaders"

Al Ries
Author/Marketing Strategist
"Marketing Leadership"

Russell Simmons
CEO, Def Jam Records
"Brand Leadership & Positive Social Change"

Geoffrey Frost
Chief Brand Officer, Motorola Inc.
"Reinventing a Global Technology Brand"

Dr Kiran Bedi
Civilian Police Adviser, UN Peacekeeping Operations
"Leadership and How All of Us Can Change the World"

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INSTRUMENTATION

Pneumatic Ind'l. Controls P4,800/42hrs	5:30-8:30 1:30-8:30	M-F Sat	Aug23-Sep10 Sep04-Oct09
Electro-Pneumatics P4,800/42hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Sep13-Oct01 Aug21-Sep25
Basic PLC P4,800/42hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-12:00 1:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F M-Th Sat Sun	Aug23-Sep10 Sep20-Oct07 Sep04-Oct09 Aug29-Oct03
Advance PLC P5,400/42hrs	8:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-Th M-F Sat	Aug23-Sep10 Sep13-Sep30 Aug28-Oct02
Calibration for Process Instrumentation P4,800/36hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-3:00	M-F Sat	Aug23-Sep10 Aug21-Sep25
Industrial Process Controls P4,800/36hrs	5:30-8:30 2:00-8:00	M-F Sat	Sep13-Oct01 Sep04-Oct09
SCADA Visualization using Wonderware InTouch P4,800/36hrs	1:00-5:00 8:00-12:00 9:00-4:00 9:00-4:00	WThF M-F Sat&Sun Sat&Sun	Sep01-Sep17 Sep20-Sep30 Aug28-Sep12 Sep25-Oct10
Process Automation Course P8,600/72hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Oct01
Machine Automation Course	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Oct22

ELECTRICAL

Industrial Electrician P4,500/66hrs	8:30-12:00 1:30-6:00 5:30-9:00 8:30-5:30 8:30-5:30	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Sep06-Oct09 Sep06-Oct09 Sep06-Oct09 Aug14-Oct02 Aug15-Oct03
Building Wiring Installation and Maintenance P4,500/60hrs	8:30-12:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Sep06-Oct05 Sep06-Oct05 Aug21-Oct09
Electrical Control Wiring Installation and Troubleshooting P4,500/48hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Sep06-Sep30 Sep18-Oct23
Motor and Transformer Rewinding P4,500/60hrs	5:30-9:00	M-Th	Sep06-Oct05
AutoCAD P4,800/72hrs	8:30-12:00 1:30-6:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sat	Sep06-Oct11 Sep06-Oct11 Sep06-Oct11 Aug28-Oct23 Aug29-Oct24
Advanced Industrial Motor Control P4,500/60hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Sep06-Oct07 Aug21-Oct09

MECHANICAL

Lathe Machine Operation P7,000/40hrs	5:00-8:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Aug23-Sep07 Aug28-Sep25
Milling Machine Operation P7,000/40hrs	5:00-8:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Aug23-Sep07 Aug28-Sep26
Basic CAD/CAM P4,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug23-Sep09 Aug28-Sep25
CNC Milling Programming P4,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug23-Sep09 Aug28-Sep26
Gas Welding Cutting & Brazing P5,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug23-Sep09 Aug28-Sep26

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Office 2000 (MSWord,MSExcel, MSPowerPoint) P8,000/48hrs	1:00-5:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Fri M-Fri Sat	Aug16-Sep02 Sep06-Sep27 Oct04-Oct25 Sep18-Oct23
Program Logic Formulation P5,000/30hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 5:30-8:30 3:30-8:30	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Sep05-Sep21 Aug16-Aug31 Sep06-Sep21 Aug21-Sep26
Developing Web Animation using Flash P5,500/24hrs	8:30-11:30 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug30-Sep09 Aug16-Aug26 Sep13-Sep23 Aug14-Sep04
Web Page Designing using Dreamweaver P6,000/30hrs	3:30-8:30 1:30-4:30	Sat M-Th	Aug28-Oct02 Sep06-Sep21
Macromedia Flash ActionScript P6,000/24hrs	8:30-8:30 8:00-3:00	Sat M-Th	Sep13-Sep23 Sep11-Oct02
Visual Basic.Net Fundamentals P8,500/45hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Sep20-Oct13 Oct25-Nov17 Sep20-Oct13 Oct25-Nov17 Oct02-Nov06 Oct03-Nov07
Programming In C++ P6,500/36hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug16-Sep02 Sep06-Sep23 Aug16-Sep02 Aug28-Oct02
Object Oriented Programming in C++ P6,500/36 hrs	9:00-4:00	Sun	Aug22-Sep26
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Introduction to Oracle 9i. SQL P10,000/48 hrs.	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug16-Sep09 Aug16-Sep09 Sep18-Nov06
Network Technology P7,000/45hrs	9:00-4:00 9:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 9:00-4:00 9:00-4:00 9:00-4:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat Sun	Aug09-Aug19 Aug23-Sep02 Aug23-Sep16 Sep20-Oct13 Sep17-NOv05 Oct23-Dec11 Oct24-Dec12
Administering Windows Networks P9,000/54hrs	9:00-4:00 9:00-5:00 10:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Fri Sat TWTh Sun Sun	Aug13-Oct08 Oct16-Dec04 Aug24-Sep09 Aug15-Sep26 Oct10-Nov21
Administering Windows Network Infrastructure P9,000/48hrs	6:00-9:00	TWTh	Sep07-Oct12
Linux System Administration (Linux+) P8,200/45hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 1:30-4:30 900-4:00	M-F M-F M-F M-F Sun	Aug16-Sep03 Sep01-Sep21 Aug09-Aug27 Sep01-Sep21 Aug22-Oct10
Linux Network Administration P6,500/30hrs	6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 800-4:00	MWF MWF Sat	Aug09-Aug25 Aug30-Sep16 Aug14-Sep11
SQUID P2,000/8hrs	1:00-6:00	W&F	Aug26&Aug27
CISCO 1 P8,000/70hrs	8:00-4:00	Sat	Aug21-Oct23
CISCO 2 P8,000/70hrs	1:00-6:00	M&F	Aug16-Oct15
CISCO 4 P8,000/70hrs	5:30-8:30	MWF	Aug16-Oct08

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AUTOMOTIVE/RAC

Basic Driving Course P6,000/15hrs	8:00-12:00	Sun	Aug07-Sep25
Auto Engine Electrical P3,000/42hrs	9:00-12:00 5:30-8:30	M-F M-F	Aug23-Sep09 Aug23-Sep09
Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48hrs	2:00-5:00	M-F	Aug23-Sep13
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-5:00	M-F M-F	Aug23-Sep17 Aug23-Sep17
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	2:00-5:00 5:30-8:30	M-F M-F	Aug23-Sep17 Aug23-Sep17
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30hrs	2:00-5:00 800-12:00	M-F Sun	Aug23-Sep03 Aug29-Oct17
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/48hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug23-Sep13
Underchassis Mechanic P3,900/60hrs	2:00-5:00	M-F	Aug23-Sep17
Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic P4,500/60hrs	5:30-8:30	M-Th	Aug23-Sep23

ELECTRONICS

Basic Electronics P3,900/36hrs	1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sat	Aug16-Aug30 Sep06-Sep20 Sep06-Sep20 Aug28-Sep25 Aug28-Sep25
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,300/36hrs	8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th T-F T-F Sat	Aug16-Aug30 Aug17-Aug31 Sep21-Oct05 Aug28-Sep26
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8:30-12:00 8:30-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th T-Th T-Th Sat	Aug16-Aug31 Sep06-Sep21 Aug16-Aug30 Sep14-Sep30 Aug28-Sep26
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8:30-12:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Aug16-Aug31 Aug28-Sep25
Television & Monitor Servicing P3,900/36hrs	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Aug16-Aug31 Sep06-Sep21 Aug28-Sep26
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P4,800/27hrs	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Aug16-Aug26 Sep06-Sep16 Aug28-Sep25
Home Video Editing P3,300/16hrs	8:00-12:00	Sat	Sep04-Sep25

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Enhancing Communication Skills P3,600/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Aug07-Aug21
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,600/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Aug21-Sep04
Customer Service P3,600/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Aug07-Aug21

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Elizalde bias hit

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE is no question that Frank Elizalde holds a very important position in sports as the International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines. He is the eyes and ears of the IOC here because Olympic officials who are based in Lausanne, Switzerland, do not know the real situation of sports in our country. In fact, Elizalde's recommendation carries much weight with the IOC, now headed by Jacques Rogge of Belgium, because the Olympic body listens only to him.

According to former Philippine Olympic Committee president Col. Julian Malonso, Elizalde was appointed to the prestigious position on July 11, 1985 by then IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch to replace Jorge Vargas, who died shortly before the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Elizalde was named to the vacant post upon the recommendation of Filipino football official Fernando Alvarez to the influential Joao Havelange of Brazil, then president of the International Football Federation (Fifa), who is widely perceived as the third point of the so-called "pyramid of world sports" that includes Samaranch (of Spain) and Italy's Primo Nebiolo, then the big boss of the cash-rich International Athletic Federation (IAAF).

As an IOC official, Elizalde is supposed to mediate—if not solve—the problems confronting the POC. But sad to say, Elizalde, who spends much time travelling abroad to attend IOC meetings, has appeared not to have the same time to settle these disputes.

In the coming POC elections for example, Elizalde is supposed to be neutral; he should not take sides nor influence the POC voters. But how come, many are taking umbrage at his remarks made during last Monday's POC general assembly meeting?

In that meeting, Elizalde was quoted as saying that "much talk about the forthcoming POC elections further divides the Olympic body. Its timing is off, especially now that the country is preparing for the Olympics."

"That's wrong," stressed equestrian head Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who is being groomed to oppose incumbent POC president Celso Dayrit in the November polls. "We are not talking of partisanship here because there's no such thing. I think the issue of everybody committing himself to achieve unity has already been clarified today."

The 69-year-old Cojuangco, a former Tarlac congressman and brother of former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, said he wants an acclamation for the POC elections to prevent a confrontation between him and Dayrit. Cojuangco is reported to be enjoying the support of the majority of NSA (national sports association) officials.

The past years have been a reminder that several POC members are not happy. "It is a leadership without direction," once said Col. Buddy Andrada of the tennis association. It is an organization wracked by wranglings, a sports club where the members are fighting with one another.

Malonso, an Olympic purist, also said Elizalde does not protect the Olympic movement. "He doesn't know the rules of the IOC in the use of the word 'Olympics.' It is being used openly in products, stores, Milo Olympics. That is prohibited in the IOC rules. That is the responsibility of the IOC representative to the Philippines."

***

ODDS AND ENDS. Because our athletes don't have a chance and their performances pale in comparison with the world's elite, there is no need for our cash-strapped government to spend P92 million to cover on television (NBN 4) the Philippine participation in the coming Athens Olympic Games. "The badly needed cash should be saved for the rainy days," a sports buff said. "The NBN telecast is not a matter of life and death. In fact, the telecast could only expose our mediocre preparation for the Olympics and add to the misery of our ill-trained and underfed athletes. There is absolutely no need to subject them to further embarrassment." … FOR THE RECORD, Empire King, winner of the second and third legs of the just-ended Triple Crown races at the Santa Ana Park, did not compete in the initial leg of the series held last May 23 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park due to a foot injury. Cover Girl of the Mamon family won the inaugural race of the series sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission.

IM Sanchez ties for 2nd in Cannes; Rañola scores

Standings after round 8:

6.5—GM Sinisa Drazic (Yugoslavia); **6.0**—IM Joseph Sanchez (RP), GM Vladislav Tkachiev (FRA), GM Igor Miladinovic (GRE), GM Andrei Sokolov (FRA), GM Miroljub Lazic (YUG), GM Mladen Palac (CRO), GM Bogdan Lalic (ENG); **5.5**—NM Yves Rañola (RP), GM Chanda Sandipan (IND), GM Davor Komljenovic (CRO), IM Yannick Gozzoli (FRA), IM Aurelien Dunis (FRA), IM Matthieu Cornette (FRA), IM Fabio Bellini (ITA), IM Sebastian Siebrecht (GER), IM Slavisa Peric (YUG), IM Vladimir Kostic (YUG), FM Fabricio Patuzzo (SWI), FM Folco Castaldo (ITA), FM Maurizio Brancaleoni (ITA)

SANCHEZ

FILIPINO International Master Joseph Sanchez conquered GM Vadim Malakhatko of Ukraine to climb into a tie for second to eighth places after the eighth and penultimate round of the Cannes Open International chess tournament in Cannes, France.

The Cebuano Sanchez (ELO 2453) now has 6 points like super GM Vladislav Tkachiev and GM Andrei Sokolov of France, super GM Igor Miladinovic of Greece, GM Miroljub Lazic of Yugoslavia, GM Mladen Palac of Croatia and GM Bogdan Lalic of England.

Filipino National Master Yves Rañola downed Aurelio Colmenares of Switzerland to improve his record to 5.5 points.

Rañola was in a tie for ninth with GM Chanda Sandipan of India, GM Davor Komljenovic of Croatia and 10 others.

Overnight solo leader GM Sinisa Drazic of Yugoslavia remained on top after halving the point with super GM Miladinovic. Drazic has 6.5 points.

Meanwhile, IM Ronald Bancod lost to GM Lazic and was stuck at 5 points. He was in a tie for 22nd to 40th places in the 166-man field.

In the final round, Sanchez will handle white against GM Palac, while Rañola has the black pieces against Brancaleoni.

The RP chessers' campaign is also sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Filipino families of Audi and Ovee Co and Ilde and Annie Alvarado. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Velayo KO's Baclayo

By Salven L. Lagumbay

TALAMBAN, Cebu—Philippine No. 7 minimumweight Edmund Velayo did not disappoint his hometown fans Saturday, knocking out Rolando Baclayo in the third round of the "Bakbakan sa Talamban" here.

Velayo, known for his unorthodox fighting style, unleashed a stinging right uppercut to the chin of Baclayo, who went down on all fours after a minute and 44 seconds of the round.

In the chief supporting bout, AEV Stable's Along Denoy outboxed Ricardo Albia, the RP No. 6 minifly, en route to a 99-94, 98-93, 97-93 unanimous verdict.

In the curtain-raiser, Alex Aroy posted a unanimous decision win over Roy Fuentes.

In the amateur bouts, Jovelo Miñoza prevailed over Rey Maningo 3-0; Marjo Borres trashed Rasshied Bacus 3-0; Jojo Ouano won over Jerome Bontog 3-0; and Joseph Von Miñoza beat Andrew Cañete 3-0.

Touring pros want to form new group

CAGAYAN DE ORO—A leadership divided, a membership united.

The touring members of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines is harping this tune to save the organization from self-destructing in the face of recriminations among its board of directors.

Danny Zarate and Carito Villaroman have started a signature campaign among the players to form a new group free from the PGAP's control and devoted only to looking after the interest of the pros.

Romulo Negrido, the current president, and Tony Arevalo, the association's treasurer, have been feuding the past two months over the handling of PGAP funds.

"We are doing this because the touring pros are being affected. We want them (directors) to settle their differences as soon as possible, but it seems that won't happen," said Villaroman, who once served the group as president for six years.

Villaroman said this group will not break away from the PGAP, but will run its own affairs, leaving the umbrella organization to control only the teaching and senior pros.

Meanwhile, Arevalo, an ex-caddy turned multi-millionaire businessman, has stepped up his attack against Negrido by presenting documented proof of Negrido's signed and unliquidated cash advances.

Arevalo also received a report from PGAP auditor Felix Fernando that belied Negrido's accusations. Both reports have been given to the participants of the Super Tour and the INQUIRER.

The reports alleged that Negrido signed for advances amounting to P77,000 and $4,500 from Jan. 14 to March 30.

Negrido was also in the Super Tour, and most of the 40 players who saw action decided not to give him the 3 percent levy on winnings due the PGAP until the leadership squabble is resolved.

Negrido has maintained that

TOURING/ A29

2004 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship

FINALISTS
South Luzon Leg
July 24 & 25, 2004
SM City
Lucena

Juniors Division
- Mark Anthony M. Yabut - Far Eastern University (Manila)
- Vic Neil G. Villanueva - University of Santo Tomas (Manila)

Kiddies Division
- Haridas B. Pascua - Remlife Dream School (Pangasinan)
- Amram Ezra F. Rivas - Philippine Normal University (Manila)

All FINALISTS will compete in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Grand Finals to be held from August 27 to 29, 2004 at Cyberzone, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

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Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race Organizers Assure Safety of Participants

ENDURO San Mig Light Adventure Race Manila leg promises a race of a different caliber that will elevate the racers to new heights.

With new and exciting tasks, that await the participants who will roam Metro Manila starting from Eastwood City, the racers must not only be physically ready but also mentally alert for the arduous challenges in every station.

To ensure the safety of participants in the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures, the organizers will conduct pre-race skill tests that will assess the abilities of each team.

All participants in the Elite and Fun Categories will be insured even before the race begins, which is set on August 20-21 in Metro Manila.

The race organizers have gone through the route and have taken the race themselves to further assure the participants of their safety. Medical teams are also on stand-by during the course of the race to provide assistance.

"We're addressing all possible measures and are coordinating with all respective agencies in ensuring a safe race," said x10 Events' project director Richard Acenas.

Meanwhile, the Manila leg, initiated by right alcohol, low-calorie San Mig Light, will have a unique launching cum bar adventures at Eastwood City Fuente Circle on July 31 at 7:30 p.m. where selected media and showbiz personalities will be in action.

This event is supported by Tribu, Bombproof, Nextbase DVD, Monster Radio RX 93.1, Power-Up Gyms, Digital Thrills, TOBY'S, EZ Maps, Cousin Ropes, and JETHRO Shooting Range.

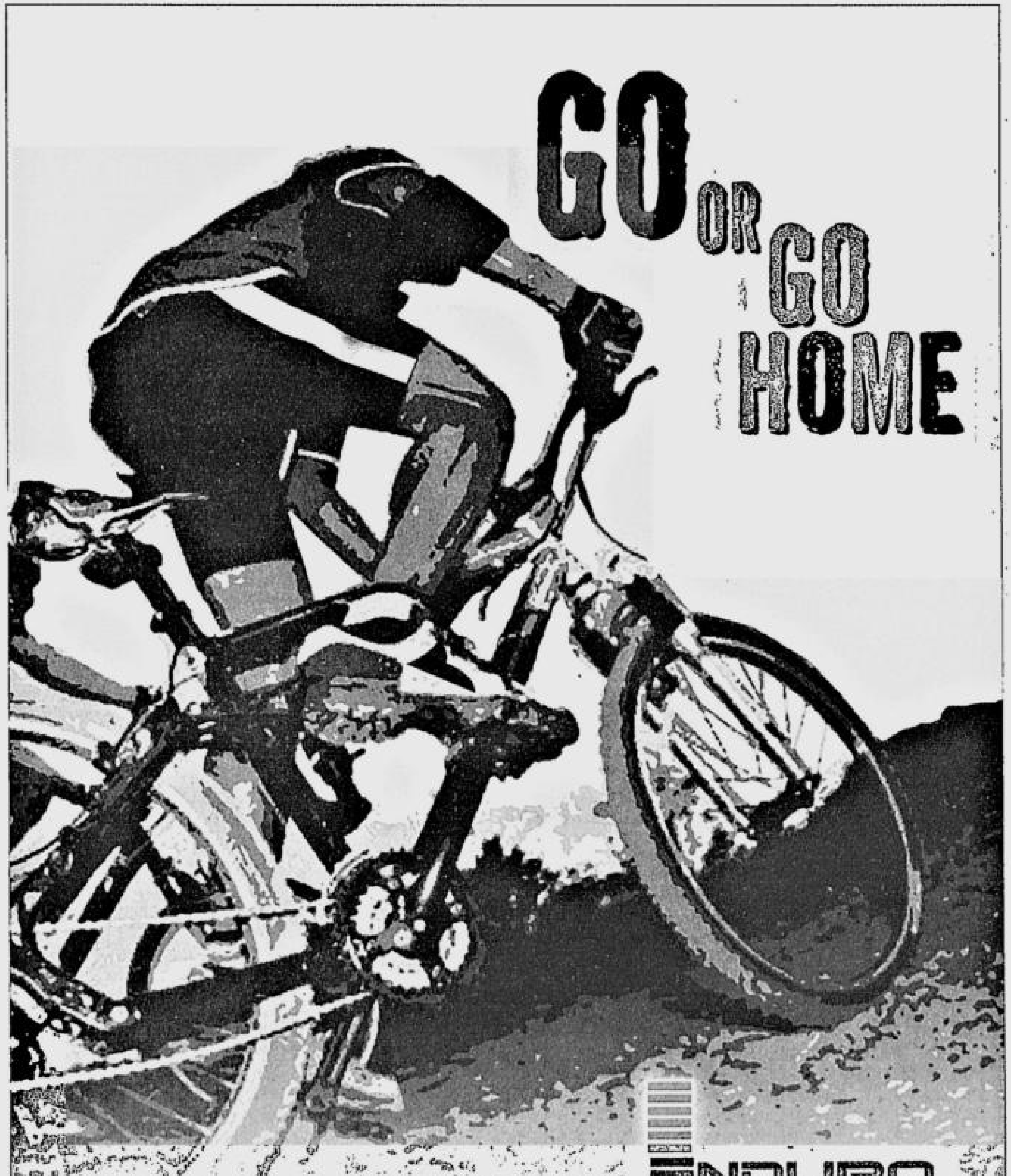
The media people and celebrities who will participate in this non-sequential bar-to-bar race will form teams of three.

Members will sprint around bars in Eastwood City and Libis, completing tasks that showcase their ability to drink, to think and to react.

Free airfare to Boracay and other prizes are at stake for the winners.

For queries or clarifications, please contact the Enduro hotline at 412-8660, or you can log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph

advt.



They're off! The Enduro San Mig Light Adventures is firing up its second leg: The fierce competition that started in Boracay now blazes on in Eastwood City. P35,000 awaits the winner of the challenging Fun category and P75,000 goes to the winner of the highly intense Elite Race. So if you feel like diving, biking, climbing, leaping, rappelling and competing this August 20 and 21, call 412-8660 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph to register. Smart and Talk and Text subscribers may also text ENDURO to 386.

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No more stint in the desert for Cassius

By Musong R. Castillo

CASAS: Sacrificing his nightlife for better health

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Had things not turned out the way they did, Cassius Casas could have been in a faraway country by now, giving pointers to bearded men in habit-like robes, scratching a living as a teaching pro in a driving range in the desert.

With his swing in tatters and his confidence in shambles, Casas had thought of giving up his professional golf career here after missing the cut in this year's Philippine Open and the prize-rich Country Club Invitational, where he was the defending champion.

He had given his resumé to a recruitment company, awaiting a call to be assigned to wherever in the Middle East and leave behind what started as one of the most successful golf careers locally.

"I really felt that there was nothing left for me here," Casas said in Filipino, just hours after winning the Super Golf Tour Saturday while waiting to board a SuperFerry for the 32-hour trip back to Manila from here.

"People say that you should not teach if you want to keep your game at a high level. But I was willing to teach Arabs just to be able to earn a living, because my game was not even at a competitive level."

Casas sacrificed his nightlife, started lifting weights and went on a crash diet after the Country Club debacle as dad Necias prodded him to strive harder.

The 37-year-old Southwoods bet went back to swing guru Bong Lopez's care and even spent time taking videos of himself in practice, a complete re-dedication that bore fruit, worth P500,000, Saturday.

"Slowly, things started coming back. My drive is long as it has been in the past and my conditioning was put to the test in this tournament," Casas said. "I will never let go again."

The Super Tour victory is not only about the money. Cassius feels on top of his game again and hopes to stay up there this time.

Ardina, Tabuena triumph in US Kids world golf tilt

DOTTIE Ardina picked up a third consecutive crown and Miguel Tabuena made it a double celebration for the small Philippine contingent with a breakthrough victory in the 2004 US Kids World Golf Championships which ended Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in Williamsburg, Virginia.

TABUENA (left) hoists the champion's trophy. With him are Hubbard (second from left) and the American third and fourth placers.

Facing a familiar foe who just wouldn't let go, Ardina rose to the challenge with an even-par 36 at the Green course of Golden Horse Shoe to beat Lydia Gumm by one for the girls' 9 years division title.

Ardina, posting a 105 total, emerged as one of the winningest players in the tournament. She won the 8 years title last year also at the expense of Gumm and the 7 years trophy in 2002.

After grabbing a two-stroke lead in the penultimate round, International School-Manila standout Tabuena held off a charging Richard Hubbard to rule the boys' 9 years for his first win in the prestigious meet.

Tabuena turned in his worst round in three days of one-over 73 for a 215 total at the Williamsburg National Golf Club but Hubbard, three down at the start of the day, fell a stroke short of forging a sudden-death playoff with his 71.

AR Ramos took a double bogey on the penultimate hole and failed to complete what could have been a triple victory for RP when he lost the battle for the boys' 7 years plum by a stroke to Joshua Martin.

Mia Piccio settled for third in the girls' 12 years category, also at the Green course, while Andie Unson rallied to salvage fourth in the girls' 9 years for another impressive stint by Team Philippines whose trip here was sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Smart Kid, Samsung and Manila Southwoods.

The victories of Tabuena and Ardina came after the recent win of lefty JR Gonzales in the boys' 7-8 years category of the Junior World.

"We were able to get the attention of American parents with these victories and they credited us for our strong junior program," said Luigi Tabuena, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

In the Optimist International championships at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Jayvie Agojo submitted her best round in three days—a four-over 76—but still dropped to eighth from sixth going into the final round.

At 231, counting her earlier rounds of 78 and 77, Agojo tees off in the last round Sunday eight shots behind Colombia's Juliana Beatrice Ortiz, who shot 77-223.

Remijin Camping turned in a 76 and moved up to a share of 10th at 233.

JW-FED GOLF

Canlubang ousts MGC; Southwoods shines

CANLUBANG came from behind to oust 2002 champion Manila Golf Club in a rousing upset yesterday and arrange a semifinal showdown with reigning titlist Alabang in the Johnnie Walker-Federation Golf League.

Luigi Yulo teamed up with young Marco Olives to take the scramble match, 3 & 2, for the crucial victory that gave the underdog Canlubang a 2.5-1.5 win at home after forging a 2-2 deadlock at Manila Golf last Saturday.

Jimmy Feliciano-Charlie Carmona (high-low), Bing Bunye-Yoshiko Akasaka (alternate) and Mari Hechanova-Steven Chan (best ball) all secured draws in their respective matches.

Advancing to the Final Four for the first time with the close 4.5-3.5 decision, Canlubang earned a crack at Alabang which dominated Valley in their own home-and-away showdown.

Manila Southwoods completed the weekend of reversals by ousting eliminations topnotcher Riviera behind the heroics of Tonton Asistio and Sonny Bitong in a sudden-death playoff.

Southwoods will clash with Royal Northwoods, a 7-1 winner over 2001 winner Forest Hills, in the other semifinal matchup of the tournament also supported by Smart Communications and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

After the Southwoods-Riviera duel ended in a 4-4 draw in regulation play, Asistio and Bitong both came through with pars to beat Raymund Sangil and Patrick Tsai who made a par and a bogey, respectively, in a high-low format.

Alabang set up the victory by snatching a 3-1 verdict at home then returned the next day at Valley to complete the rout via the same score and move within a win of a return trip to the finals.

Danny Sarmiento, unable to contribute for most of the round in his bestball partnership with Iggy Clavecilla, scored a tap-in birdie on the last hole that turned out to be the winning point in the match.

Caloy Coscolluela-Seve Roxas Chua won in high-low, while Francis Jimenez-Buddy Velayo and King Stehmeier-Vic Guzman halved the point with their respective opponents in scramble and alternate play.

Royal Northwoods likewise swept 2001 winner Forest Hills to earn a return trip to next week's semifinals.

Northwoods will meet the winner of the Riviera-Southwoods quarterfinal tiff.

The Northwoods bets first stunned their hosts at their Antipolo course, 3-1, before winning all their matches at home in Bulacan yesterday for a 7-1 result.

Champs reassert supremacy in Oro race

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The defending champions reasserted themselves yesterday with Juniel Laguido providing the highlight by running on injured legs to retain his Milo marathon men's regional title.

Sideswiped by a speeding vehicle a month ago while jogging in the streets here, the 20-year-old Laguido topped the 21-kilometer race in one hour, five minutes and 44 seconds.

"*Akala ko nga hindi ako mananalo ngayon dahil medyo sumasakit pa ang paa ko. Pero ininuman ko ng maraming gamot para makatakbo ako.* (My legs were still hurting, but I took a lot of pain killers to be able to compete)," said Laguido, who has a scar on his right leg to remind him of the accident.

Laguido, a native of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, beat archrival Roger Sawin-ay, last year's runner-up here, by 26 seconds. A far third was veteran Ronillo Sandinao (1:07:03).

Ailene Tolentino likewise repeated as champion, winning handily in the absence of her elder sister, Ellen, last year's runner-up who now studies at La Salle-Dasmariñas.

She finished the race in 1:22:39, more than eight minutes ahead of second placer Cecile Topia and third placer Helen Tacling.

Aside from booking a seat in the National Finals in Metro Manila on Nov. 14, Laguido and Tolentino each pocketed the P10,000 top purse and a brand-new cell phone.

Sawin-ay and Sandinao along with Topia and Tacling are also bound for the 42-km National Finals of the race held in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Parkview Hotel Manila, Globe Handyphone, adidas and the Department of Tourism.

A student at the Lapasan National High School who also claimed the leg title here in 2001, Tolentino said she'll try to finish a full marathon for the first time in the finals.

The 19-year-old Tolentino ran in the Finals last year but was unable to finish.

The 5-K fun run was dominated by Ariel Unabie and Charue Dabatian while the 3-K age-group event was won by John Kenneth Canete and Jocelyn Requerme (6-9 years old) and Arlan Podador and Annarose Boquerin (10-12).

PLP five nips Holy Angel U, ties host UM

PAMANTASAN ng Lungsod ng Pasay held its ground against Holy Angel University to pound out an 84-82 win Saturday and join defending champion University of Manila in the lead in the Naascu basketball tournament at the UM gym.

Buoyed by their opening-day 79-76 win over St. Clare College (Caloocan) last July 28, the Eagles went to Christopher Navo, Roel Asay and Anthony Somera to seal their second straight win in the nine-team, double-round tournament.

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	2	0
PLP	2	0
CEU	1	0
St. Clare	1	1
AMACU-QC	1	1
Makati U.	1	1
STI	0	1
New Era	0	2
Holy Angel	0	2

Navo finished with 17 points, Asay added 16 and Somera contributed 15 for the Eagles, who are being handled by coach Alvin Zuniga.

The scores:

PLP 84—Navo 17, Asay 16, Somera 15, Rizos 10, Gumapas 7, David 6, Galindez 5, De la Cruz 3, Ferreria 1, Reyes 1, Gawat 1.

HOLY ANGEL 82—Tongio 19, Ramos 16, David 10, Guijalas 9, Francisco 7, Lalic 6, De Guzman 5, Mago 4, Tungcul 4, De la Cruz 2.

Quarterscores: 17-20, 35-all, 57-51; 84-82.

Pacquiao not yet at level with Erik Morales

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NO, it was not one for Ripley's. It could've happened anytime, anywhere.

But, for Muhammad Ali's sake, did you see what Erik Morales and Carlos Hernandez did to each other in the 12th and final round of their world super featherweight unification bout yesterday?

They hugged like loving brothers, then proceeded to lock horns and blast at each other in one of the most brutal final three minutes of a world boxing championship.

It was both warm and amazing.

You see, it's normal for championship fighters to first touch gloves before digging in for the 12th and final round.

No, that practice is not a requirement.

It's an optional move that's often overlooked, no thanks to the savage climate inside the ring.

But a brotherly hug before the two combatants try to kill each other in the final three minutes?

***

Well, you can bet it was borne out of mutual respect.

Hernandez, Famoso in his birthplace in the Dominican Republic, gave it all in a tireless, bell-to-bell, blitz bid to pin Morales and steal the WBC 130-lb title from the sharp, good-looking Tijuana native.

The gutsy Hernandez, described as a Jake Lamotta-type, did not succeed.

But it could not be said that he did not draw any respect, if not full-scale awe, from Morales.

Yes, Hernandez, the IBF super featherweight champ who trained together with our own Manny Pacquiao in Freddie Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood last year, did win something like three rounds.

He was also ever on the charge but was, on the whole, controlled by Morales who worked his fire-breathing foe the way a matador would a raging bull.

***

The fight, for the unification of the WBC-IBF 130-lb championships, was indeed anything but boring.

Both fighters were accorded a standing ovation after the final bell.

Morales had visibly been pushed to the limit, the reason his countrymen at ringside finished the final three minutes on their feet.

Hernandez came short in many areas, mainly on defense and ringmanship.

He often dug in blindly, thereby leaving Morales room to shove, hold, stall and manipulate with aplomb.

On the whole, it's easy to say that, even before the unanimous verdict was made, the unification victory could go down as one of Morales' masterpieces.

***

Now, come to think of it, wasn't it Pacquiao who should've clashed with Morales, instead of Hernandez yesterday?

Remember that, before his controversial draw against Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas last May, Pacquiao was being lined up to take on Morales next.

This same aborted fight was the reason behind several text messages which wondered if Pacquiao could handle the sharp, strong, super talented Morales.

"*Kaya po ba ni* Manny *si* Morales?" asked my godson, Ronald Layug.

Well, frankly speaking, your reporter here had thought Pacquiao could be equal to the challenge and be able to give Morales a run for his money.

This reporter's assessment had to be revised after having witnessed Morales go through the griller yesterday.

***

Before everything else, it should be reported here that Pacquiao's return match against Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera, after being shelved by HBO, could possibly push through in November.

This was confirmed by Pacquiao handlers, headed by business manager Rod Nazario, who said Murad Muhammad, Pacquiao's promoter in the United States, claimed revival negotiations have been fruitful, so far.

Now, with Pacquiao reportedly aiming to go after the so-called triumvirate of Mexican boxing, namely, Barrera, Marquez and ultimately Morales, the sky, indeed, seems to be the limit for the Filipino world boxing celebrity.

Just fine. But granting he's able to repeat over Barrera, then succeeds in a rematch against Marquez, would Pacquiao be a safe bet against Morales?

The answer from here is a big NO. Not yet.

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Basically a slugger, Pacquiao could hit the jackpot only with a knockout.

In truth, though, he will have to learn and unlearn new tricks in order to be at level with the shifty, fast-adjusting Mexican ringmaster who, as had been proven yesterday, thrives best in adversity.

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No more stint in the desert for Cassius

By Musong R. Castillo

JESS YUSON

CASAS: Sacrificing his nightlife for better health

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Had things not turned out the way they did, Cassius Casas could have been in a faraway country by now, giving pointers to bearded men in habit-like robes, scratching a living as a teaching pro in a driving range in the desert.

With his swing in tatters and his confidence in shambles, Casas had thought of giving up his professional golf career here after missing the cut in this year's Philippine Open and the prize-rich Country Club Invitational, where he was the defending champion.

He had given his resumé to a recruitment company, awaiting a call to be assigned to wherever in the Middle East and leave behind what started as one of the most successful golf careers locally.

"I really felt that there was nothing left for me here," Casas said in Filipino, just hours after winning the Super Golf Tour Saturday while waiting to board a SuperFerry for the 32-hour trip back to Manila from here.

"People say that you should not teach if you want to keep your game at a high level. But I was willing to teach Arabs just to be able to earn a living, because my game was not even at a competitive level."

Casas sacrificed his nightlife, started lifting weights and went on a crash diet after the Country Club debacle as dad Necias prodded him to strive harder.

The 37-year-old Southwoods bet went back to swing guru Bong Lopez's care and even spent time taking videos of himself in practice, a complete re-dedication that bore fruit, worth P500,000, Saturday.

"Slowly, things started coming back. My drive is long as it has been in the past and my conditioning was put to the test in this tournament," Casas said. "I will never let go again."

The Super Tour victory is not only about the money. Cassius feels on top of his game again and hopes to stay up there this time.

Champs reassert supremacy in Oro race

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The defending champions reasserted themselves yesterday with Juniel Laguido providing the highlight by running on injured legs to retain his Milo marathon men's regional title.

Sideswiped by a speeding vehicle a month ago while jogging in the streets here, the 20-year-old Laguido topped the 21-kilometer race in one hour, five minutes and 44 seconds.

"*Akala ko nga hindi ako mananalo ngayon dahil medyo sumasakit pa ang paa ko. Pero ininuman ko ng maraming gamot para makatakbo ako.* (My legs were still hurting, but I took a lot of pain killers to be able to compete)," said Laguido, who has a scar on his right leg to remind him of the accident.

Laguido, a native of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, beat archrival Roger Sawin-ay, last year's runner-up here, by 26 seconds. A far third was veteran Ronillo Sandinao (1:07:03).

Ailene Tolentino likewise repeated as champion, winning handily in the absence of her elder sister, Ellen, last year's runner-up who now studies at La Salle-Dasmariñas.

She finished the race in 1:22:39, more than eight minutes ahead of second placer Cecile Topia and third placer Helen Tacling.

Aside from booking a seat in the National Finals in Metro Manila on Nov. 14, Laguido and Tolentino each pocketed the P10,000 top purse and a brand-new cell phone.

Sawin-ay and Sandinao along with Topia and Tacling are also bound for the 42-km National Finals of the race held in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Parkview Hotel Manila, Globe Handyphone, adidas and the Department of Tourism.

A student at the Lapasan National High School who also claimed the leg title here in 2001, Tolentino said she'll try to finish a full marathon for the first time in the finals.

The 19-year-old Tolentino ran in the Finals last year but was unable to finish.

The 5-K fun run was dominated by Ariel Unabie and Charue Dabatian while the 3-K age-group event was won by John Kenneth Canete and Jocelyn Requerme (6-9 years old) and Arlan Podador and Annarose Boquerin (10-12).

Ardina, Tabuena triumph in US Kids world golf tilt

TABUENA (left) hoists the champion's trophy. With him are Hubbard (second from left) and the American third and fourth placers.

DOTTIE Ardina picked up a third consecutive crown and Miguel Tabuena made it a double celebration for the small Philippine contingent with a breakthrough victory in the 2004 US Kids World Golf Championships which ended Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Facing a familiar foe who just wouldn't let go, Ardina rose to the challenge with an even-par 36 at the Green course of Golden Horse Shoe to beat Lydia Gumm by one for the girls' 9 years division title.

Ardina, posting a 105 total, emerged as one of the winningest players in the tournament. She won the 8 years title last year also at the expense of Gumm and the 7 years trophy in 2002.

After grabbing a two-stroke lead in the penultimate round, International School-Manila standout Tabuena held off a charging Richard Hubbard to rule the boys' 9 years for his first win in the prestigious meet.

Tabuena turned in his worst round in three days of one-over 73 for a 215 total at the Williamsburg National Golf Club but Hubbard, three down at the start of the day, fell a stroke short of forging a sudden-death playoff with his 71.

AR Ramos took a double bogey on the penultimate hole and failed to complete what could have been a triple victory for RP when he lost the battle for the boys' 7 years plum by a stroke to Joshua Martin.

Mia Piccio settled for third in the girls' 12 years category, also at the Green course, while Andie Unson rallied to salvage fourth in the girls' 9 years for another impressive stint by Team Philippines whose trip here was sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Smart Kid, Samsung and Manila Southwoods.

The victories of Tabuena and Ardina came after the recent win of lefty JR Gonzales in the boys' 7-8 years category of the Junior World.

"We were able to get the attention of American parents with these victories and they credited us for our strong junior program," said Luigi Tabuena, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

In the Optimist International championships at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Jayvie Agojo submitted her best round in three days—a four-over 76—but still dropped to eighth from sixth going into the final round.

At 231, counting her earlier rounds of 78 and 77, Agojo tees off in the last round Sunday eight shots behind Colombia's Juliana Beatrice Ortiz, who shot 77-223.

Remijin Camping turned in a 76 and moved up to a share of 10th at 233.

JW-FED GOLF

Canlubang ousts MGC; Southwoods shines

CANLUBANG came from behind to oust 2002 champion Manila Golf Club in a rousing upset yesterday and arrange a semifinal showdown with reigning titlist Alabang in the Johnnie Walker-Federation Golf League.

Luigi Yulo teamed up with young Marco Olives to take the scramble match, 3 & 2, for the crucial victory that gave the underdog Canlubang a 2.5-1.5 win at home after forging a 2-2 deadlock at Manila Golf last Saturday.

Jimmy Feliciano-Charlie Carmona (high-low), Bing Bunye-Yoshiko Akasaka (alternate) and Mari Hechanova-Steven Chan (best ball) all secured draws in their respective matches.

Advancing to the Final Four for the first time with the close 4.5-3.5 decision, Canlubang earned a crack at Alabang which dominated Valley in their own home-and-away showdown.

Manila Southwoods completed the weekend of reversals by ousting eliminations topnotcher Riviera behind the heroics of Tonton Asistio and Sonny Bitong in a sudden-death playoff.

Southwoods will clash with Royal Northwoods, a 7-1 winner over 2001 winner Forest Hills, in the other semifinal matchup of the tournament also supported by Smart Communications and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

After the Southwoods-Riviera duel ended in a 4-4 draw in regulation play, Asistio and Bitong both came through with pars to beat Raymund Sangil and Patrick Tsai who made a par and a bogey, respectively, in a high-low format.

Alabang set up the victory by snatching a 3-1 verdict at home then returned the next day at Valley to complete the rout via the same score and move within a win of a return trip to the finals.

Danny Sarmiento, unable to contribute for most of the round in his bestball partnership with Iggy Clavecilla, scored a tap-in birdie on the last hole that turned out to be the winning point in the match.

Caloy Coscolluela-Seve Roxas Chua won in high-low, while Francis Jimenez-Buddy Velayo and King Stehmeier-Vic Guzman halved the point with their respective opponents in scramble and alternate play.

Royal Northwoods likewise swept 2001 winner Forest Hills to earn a return trip to next week's semifinals.

Northwoods will meet the winner of the Riviera-Southwoods quarterfinal tiff.

The Northwoods bets first stunned their hosts at their Antipolo course, 3-1, before winning all their matches at home in Bulacan yesterday for a 7-1 result.

PLP five nips Holy Angel U, ties host UM

PAMANTASAN ng Lungsod ng Pasay held its ground against Holy Angel University to pound out an 84-82 win Saturday and join defending champion University of Manila in the lead in the Naascu basketball tournament at the UM gym.

Buoyed by their opening-day 79-76 win over St. Clare College (Caloocan) last July 28, the Eagles went to Christopher Navo, Roel Asay and Anthony Somera to seal their second straight win in the nine-team, double-round tournament.

Navo finished with 17 points, Asay added 16 and Somera contributed 15 for the Eagles, who are being handled by coach Alvin Zuniga.

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	2	0
PLP	2	0
CEU	1	0
St. Clare	1	1
AMACU-QC	1	1
Makati U.	1	1
STI	0	1
New Era	0	2
Holy Angel	0	2

The scores:

PLP 84—Navo 17, Asay 16, Somera 15, Rizos 10, Gumapas 7, David 6, Galindez 5, De la Cruz 3, Ferreria 1, Reyes 1, Gavat 1.

HOLY ANGEL 82—Tongio 19, Ramos 16, David 10, Guilalas 9, Francisco 7, Lalic 6, De Guzman 5, Mago 4, Tungcul 4, De la Cruz 2.

Quarterscores: 17-20, 35-all, 57-51, 84-82.

Pacquiao not yet at level with Erik Morales

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NO, it was not one for Ripley's. It could've happened anytime, anywhere.

But, for Muhammad Ali's sake, did you see what Erik Morales and Carlos Hernandez did to each other in the 12th and final round of their world super featherweight unification bout yesterday?

They hugged like loving brothers, then proceeded to lock horns and blast at each other in one of the most brutal final three minutes of a world boxing championship.

It was both warm and amazing.

You see, it's normal for championship fighters to first touch gloves before digging in for the 12th and final round.

No, that practice is not a requirement.

It's an optional move that's often overlooked, no thanks to the savage climate inside the ring.

But a brotherly hug before the two combatants try to kill each other in the final three minutes?

***

Well, you can bet it was borne out of mutual respect.

Hernandez, Famoso in his birthplace in the Dominican Republic, gave it all in a tireless, bell-to-bell, blitz bid to pin Morales and steal the WBC 130-lb title from the sharp, good-looking Tijuana native.

The gutsy Hernandez, described as a Jake Lamotta-type, did not succeed.

But it could not be said that he did not draw any respect, if not full-scale awe, from Morales.

Yes, Hernandez, the IBF super featherweight champ who trained together with our own Manny Pacquiao in Freddie Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood last year, did win something like three rounds.

He was also ever on the charge but was, on the whole, controlled by Morales who worked his fire-breathing foe the way a matador would a raging bull.

***

The fight, for the unification of the WBC-IBF 130-lb championships, was indeed anything but boring.

Both fighters were accorded a standing ovation after the final bell.

Morales had visibly been pushed to the limit, the reason his countrymen at ringside finished the final three minutes on their feet.

Hernandez came short in many areas, mainly on defense and ringmanship.

He often dug in blindly, thereby leaving Morales room to shove, hold, stall and manipulate with aplomb.

On the whole, it's easy to say that, even before the unanimous verdict was made, the unification victory could go down as one of Morales' masterpieces.

***

Now, come to think of it, wasn't it Pacquiao who should've clashed with Morales, instead of Hernandez yesterday?

Remember that, before his controversial draw against Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas last May, Pacquiao was being lined up to take on Morales next.

This same aborted fight was the reason behind several text messages which wondered if Pacquiao could handle the sharp, strong, super talented Morales.

"*Kaya po ba ni* Manny *si* Morales?" asked my godson, Ronald Layug.

Well, frankly speaking, your reporter here had thought Pacquiao could be equal to the challenge and be able to give Morales a run for his money.

This reporter's assessment had to be revised after having witnessed Morales go through the griller yesterday.

***

Before everything else, it should be reported here that Pacquiao's return match against Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera, after being shelved by HBO, could possibly push through in November.

This was confirmed by Pacquiao handlers, headed by business manager Rod Nazario, who said Murad Muhammad, Pacquiao's promoter in the United States, claimed revival negotiations have been fruitful, so far.

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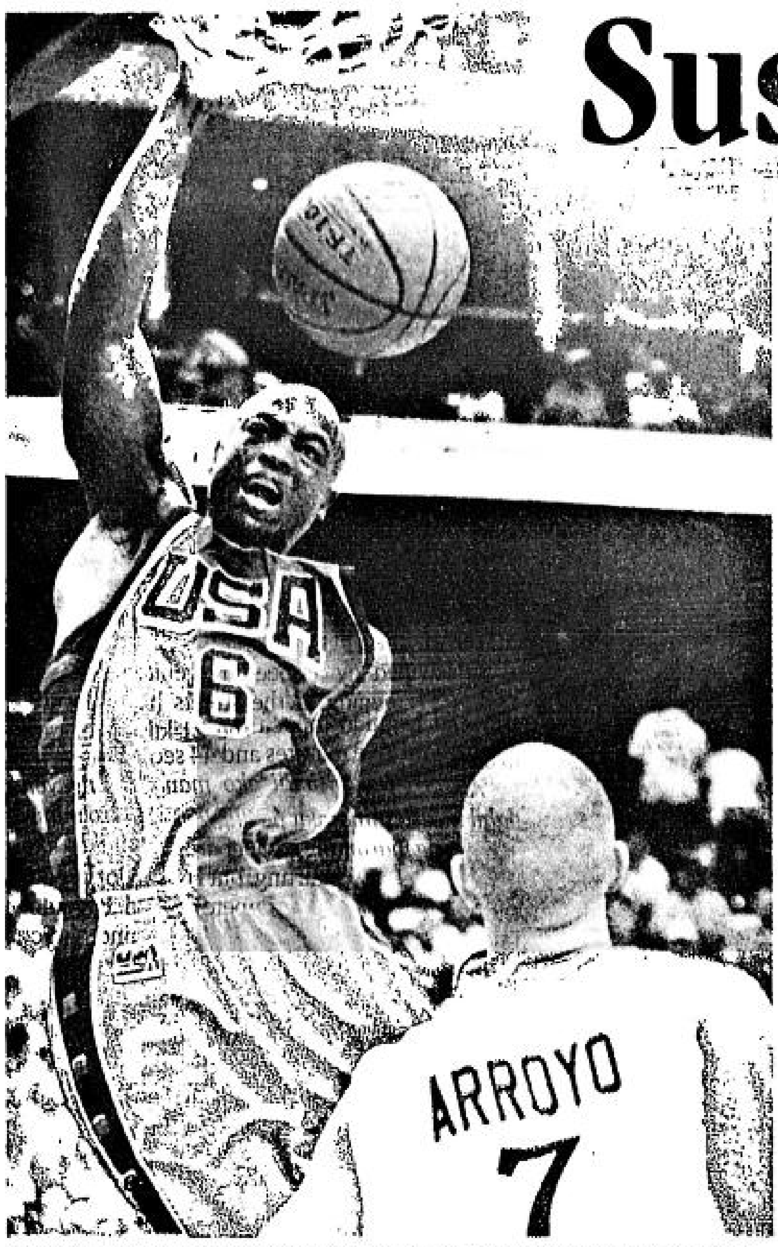
Suspensions rock US five

Iverson, two others sacked for tardiness



DWAYNE Wade, of the Miami Heat, dunks over Carlos Arroyo in the US-Puerto Rico exhibition game. REUTERS

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—Co-captain Allen Iverson and young stars LeBron James and Amare Stoudamire learned their first lesson as members of the United States Olympic basketball team—show up on time for meetings.

All three were suspended by US coach Larry Brown for Saturday's 96-71 exhibition romp over Puerto Rico as a disciplinary measure for arriving late at a team meeting here earlier Saturday.

Carmelo Anthony scored 16 points while co-captain Tim Duncan added 15 points and 10 rebounds as a short-handed US lineup dominated Puerto Rico. Just two days earlier, a full US roster overpowered Puerto Rico, 103-75.

Brown elected to play only nine men to send a message in the only US public appearance for the team before Saturday's post-game flight to Europe.

Iverson, NBA Rookie of the Year James and 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year Stoudamire were not in uniform and nowhere in sight when the others were introduced to a sellout crowd of 16,000 here at Veterans Memorial Arena.

The three walked out in warm-up gear and took seats on the end of the bench to watch their teammates. When the crowd was told they would not play and why, a chorus of boos greeted the news.

The US team scored the first 10 points, led 26-15 after the first quarter and stretched the edge as high as 17 points before Puerto Rico pulled within 43-34 at half-time.

Puerto Rico trimmed the margin to 45-39 before a 19-5 US run. The visitors never came within 17 points after that. Larry Ayuso scored 19 points to lead Puerto Rico, which opens the Olympics against the US team on Aug. 15.

With seven minutes to play, the crowd began chanting "Iverson, Iverson" and three minutes later fans began yelling "We want A.I.". But their pleas to see the All-Star guard take the court were in vain.

The banishments could prove a turning point, for good or ill, as Brown tries to build the collection of young National Basketball Association standouts into a team capable of capturing gold at the Athens Olympics.

Since NBA talent began playing at the Olympics in 1992, the US lineup has won three gold medals without losing a game. But this year's squad is the youngest US NBA roster after several top players decided not to go to Greece. *AFP*

OPENS AUGUST 4
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Bowie, Teske share Open lead; Sorenstam falls further behind

SUNNINGDALE, England—Heather Bowie and Rachel Teske shot 65s to share the lead at the Women's British Open on Saturday while two double-bogey sevens badly damaged Annika Sorenstam's bid to tie Mickey Wright's back-to-back Grand Slam.

Bowie and Teske wound up 12 under on 204, one stroke ahead of longtime leader Karen Stupples, who had a 70, and Cristie Kerr, who shot a 63.

On a day of spectacular scoring in sunny, near windless conditions at Sunningdale, Minea Blomqvist, a 19-year-old Finn, made a 10-under 62, the lowest score ever in a major, and there were six scores of 66 or better.

But they didn't include Sorenstam.

The Swede who has dominated women's golf for six years began with a double-bogey seven and had another at the 14th, each time driving into the rough and then three-putting. She ended up with a 70 and a tie for 10th with a three-round score of 209, five off the lead.

"I had two bad holes that ruined the whole day for me," the defending champion said. "I played them too aggressive and I paid the price for those two holes. But, other than that, I made five birdies and to still shoot under par and, with two double bogeys, I've got to be pleased with that.

"However there are a lot of low scores today and I'm a little more behind than I wanted. But, it's not over yet. This is the British Open and anything can happen and hopefully I can shoot 10-under tomorrow."

Sorenstam, chasing her eighth major and second this year after a repeat success at the LPGA Championship, is hoping to tie Wright's record of winning all four designated majors back to back. *AP*

BOWIE launches her drive at the 17th hole. AFP

Touring pros…

From page A27

he is still president, even if five in the nine-man board had elected Fernando to replace him.

He insists that he has liquidated his advances and turned over the receipts to the secretary of the PGAP office in Villamor, not to the PGAP treasurer and auditor.

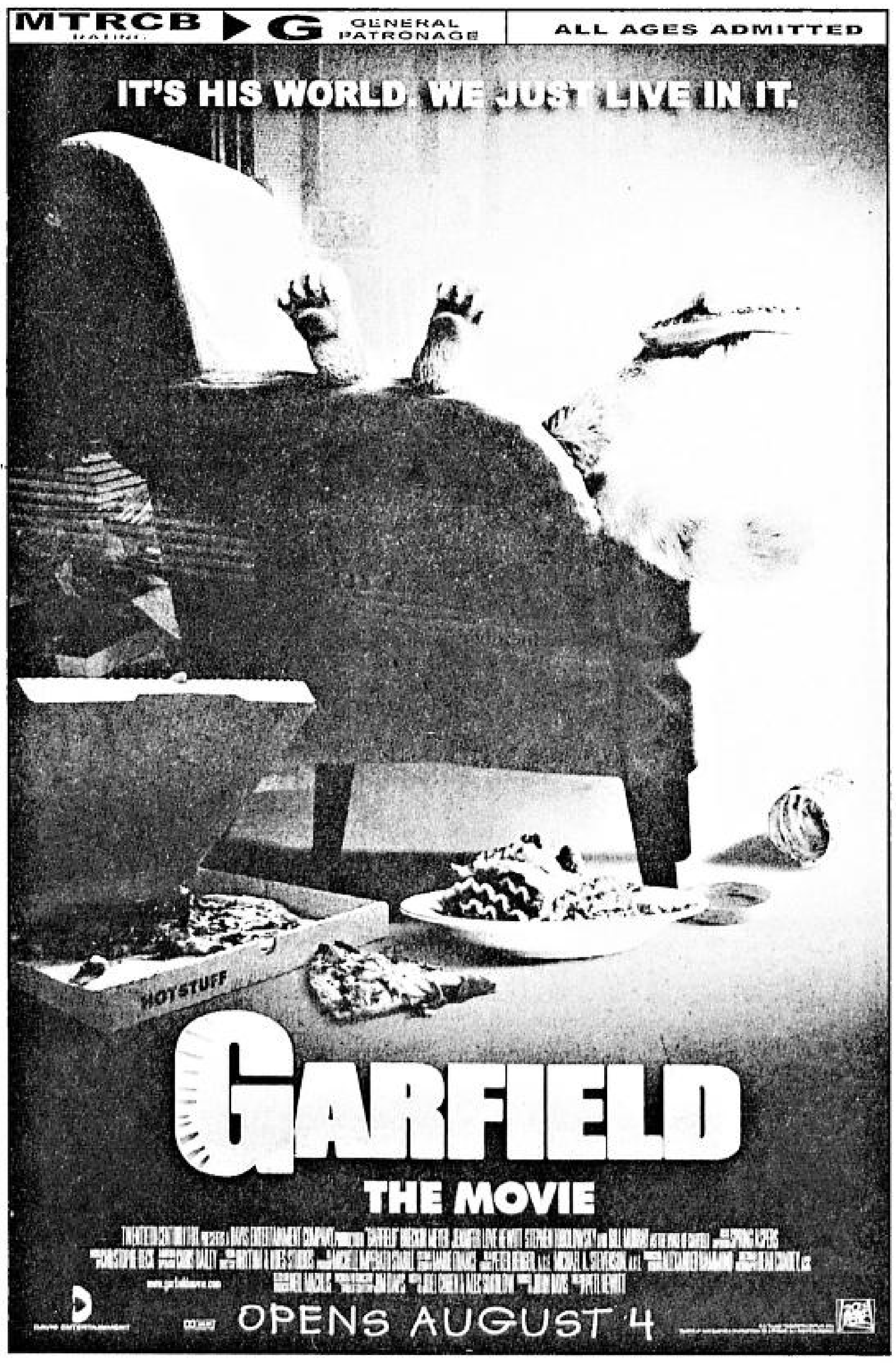
"Only a vote by the general membership can elect a new president," said Negrido. "My liquidation (receipts) are with Elsie (the PGAP secretary) in the office."

Negrido said he is amenable to a snap election, a proposition Arevalo scoffs at.

"I am not interested in becoming president, I have been saying this right from the very start," said Arevalo.

"Being president is not the issue here, it's his (Negrido's) wanton spending that triggered all this.

"What I want is for him (Negrido) to step down because majority of the board and the members don't want him there anymore." *Musong R. Castillo*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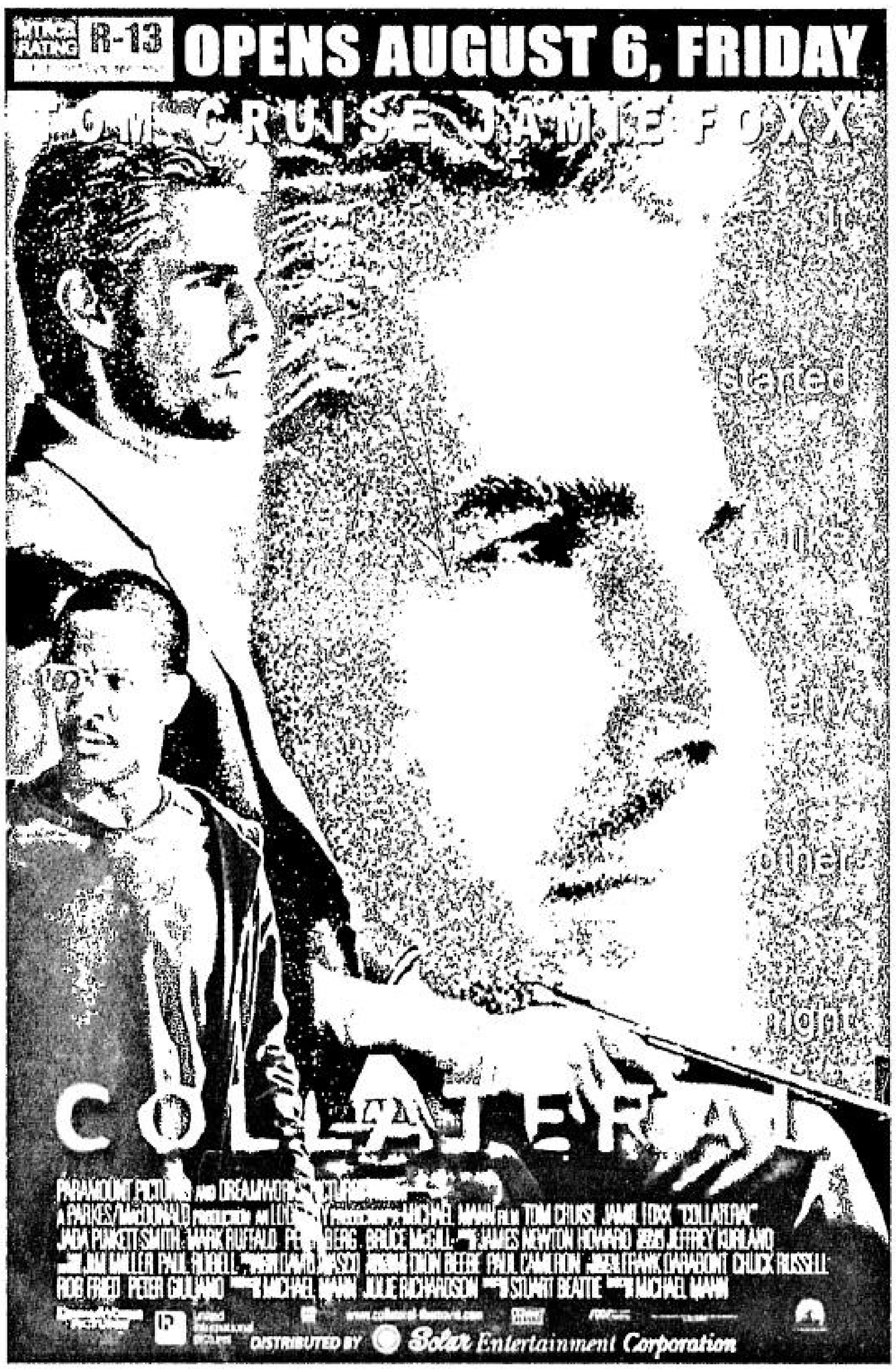
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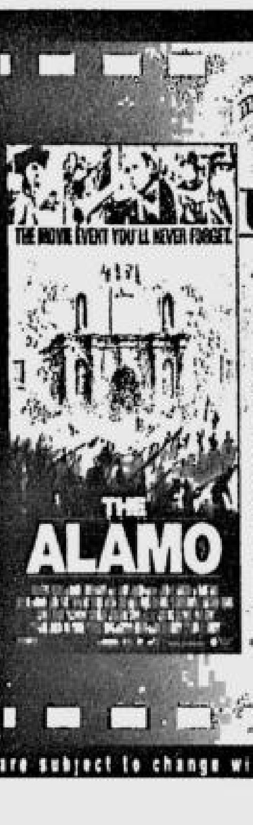
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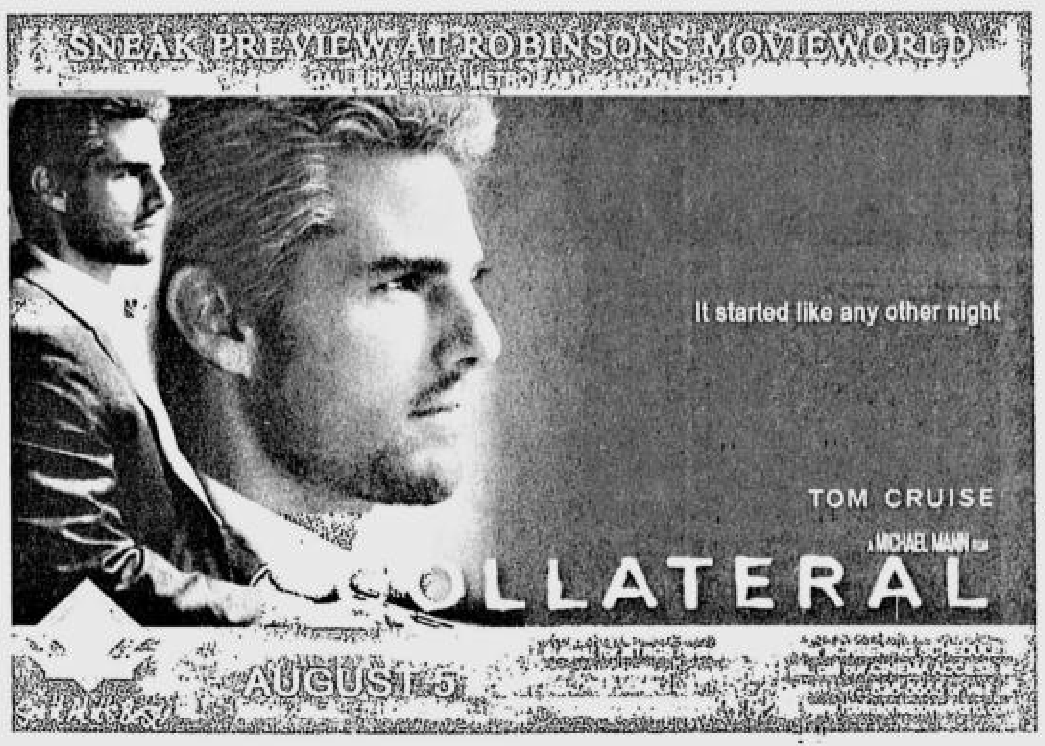
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4 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN

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GP / FS : 11:30 AM, 1:55 PM, 4:20 PM, 6:45 PM, LMF : 9:10 PM

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1. (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
2.	I - ROBOT
3.	ELLA ENCHANTED
4.	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
5.	LIBERATED - 2

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PERLAS
2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	KING ARTHUR
4 (SDDS)	LIBERATED - 2
5	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
6 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT
7 (DTS)	CATWOMAN
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
2	CATWOMAN
3	PERLAS

starmall Movies
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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	I - ROBOT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CATWOMAN
5	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	I - ROBOT
2	LIBERATED - 2
3	WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAPS 2)
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
5 (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
6	KING ARTHUR

starmall Movies
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1 (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
2	AROUND THE WORLD

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 (DDS)	ALONG CAME POLLY
2 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN - 2
3 (DTS)	CATWOMAN
4 GOLD (DTS)	I - ROBOT
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	KING ARTHUR
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ELLA ENCHANTED
8 [illegible]	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
9 [illegible]	IMELDA
10	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

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3 (Dolby)	CATWOWAN
4 (SDDS)	I, ROBOT
5 (DTS)	ELLA ENCHANTED
6 (Dolby)	IMELDA
7 (Dolby)	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	CATWOMAN
2	I - ROBOT
3	TEEN PLAY
4	

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS ES)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	MEAN GIRLS
2	IMELDA
3 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT
4 (DTS)	CATWOMAN

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	MEAN GIRLS
2	IMELDA
3 (DOLBY)	KING ARTHUR
4 (DTS)	PRINCE & ME

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	WALKING TALL
2	KING ARTHUR

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
2 (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
3 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT
4 (DOLBY)	ELLA ENCHANTED

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	PERLAS
2	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3 (DTS)	CATWOMAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MEAN GIRLS
2 (DTS)	I - ROBOT
3 (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
4	MEAN GIRLS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
2 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT
3 (DTS)	CATWOMAN
4	MEAN GIRLS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PRINCE & ME
2	LIBERATED - 2
3 (DOLBY)	KING ARTHUR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	LIBERATED - 2
2	KILL BILL - 2
3 (DOLBY)	KING ARTHUR
4 (DTS)	MEAN GIRLS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1	I - ROBOT
2	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3 (DOLBY)	MEAN GIRLS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	AROUND THE WORLD
2	PERLAS
3	KISKISAN
4 (DTS)	HAPPY HOUR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	I ROBOT
2	LIBERATED 2
3 (DTS)	CATWOMAN
4	PERLAS
5	MEAN GIRLS

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	LIBERATED - 2
2	KING ARTHUR
3 (DTS)	CATWOMAN
4 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	I ROBOT
2	PRINCE & ME
3	KING ARTHUR
4	CATWOMAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	AROUND THE WORLD
2	PERLAS

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Urbino rules Army run

CPL. DOUGLAS Urbino and Pfc. Odette Bernardino ruled the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy recently held at the Fort Bonifacio in Makati City. Urbino beat Pfc. Richard Amparo and Lt. Juline Ross Yandoc for the men's crown. On the other hand, Bernardino defeated Sgt. Florivic Dinorog and Ma. Lourdes Talla in the women's class of this this 5-km race conducted by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions for enlisted members of the Philippine Army. Major General Ricardo T. Brillantes, who also joined the race, awarded the medals and the cash prizes, which were courtesy of Beam Toothpaste and Zest-O Juice Drinks. Meanwhile, registration will start for the Aug. 29 leg set at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Manila. Registration forms should be accompanied with a P100 entry fee and any empty pack (any size) of Beam Toothpaste.

Defensor tops polls

QUEZON City Rep. Mat V. Defensor topped the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) elections late Saturday held at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club in Diliman, Quezon City. The incumbent NCFP president garnered 464 of the 507 votes cast to lead the 15-man board of directors. The new board will meet again to elect the new officers of the association, the sole governing body for chess in the country. Also retaining their seats in the board were lawyer Sammy Estimo, Go Teng Kok, Gen. Arturo Carillo (ret.), Juanito Calditaran, Casto "Toti" Abundo and lawyer Andres Gatmaitan. The new members of the board are Willie Abalos, Eduardo Madrid, Mila Emperado, Jess Torre, lawyer Romeo Seratubias, Dr. Gil Asoy, Red Dumuk and Arthuro Tan. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

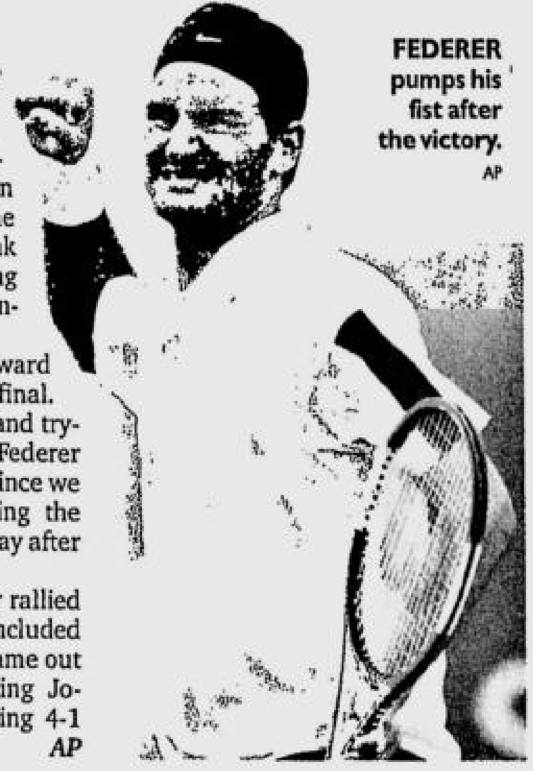
Rich Roligon derby slated

COCKFIGHTS start early at Roligon Mega Cockpit today as Rolly Ligon and Thunderbird Power Feeds present the biggest and richest pre-moulting season event—the Abot-Kaya sa Taglugon 4-Cock Derby. The event offers a guaranteed prize of P500,000 for a low entry fee of P6,600 and a minimum bet requirement of P3,300. Interested parties may call 8332275; 8331638; 8529774 or 8529812. Meanwhile, Danny Ty & Atty. Romero Yu Ray-Showdown 7-Stag Derby will begin farm-to-farm screening on Aug. 4. For appointments, call 8332275/8331638 or 0920-3074225. A P1-million prize is up for grabs for an entry fee of P18,000 and a minimum bet of P7,700.

PAF spanks NCBA five

PHILIPPINE Air Force whipped NCBA, 113-98, Friday in the 7th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the EAC gym. The Airmen raced to a 57-50 halftime lead en route to their second straight win in the event held in honor of sportsman-businessman Danny Espiritu and organized by NBDL founder Ted Magno. Navy-Red Bull bounced back with an easy 97-86 victory over Air21 to level its record at one win and one loss. Navy-Red Bull tests SSC Cavite at 4 p.m., RTU battles PATTS at 5:30 and Homer Cagers challenge Balfour Beatty at 7 at the PAF gym today.

Federer, Roddick forge big rematch


FEDERER pumps his fist after the victory. AP

TORONTO—Andy Roddick advanced to the final of the Tennis Masters Canada with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Nicolas Kiefer of Germany on Saturday, setting up a rematch of his Wimbledon final against Roger Federer of Switzerland.

"I've had a great run here in Canada the last two years and now this year as well," Roddick said. "I feel like this is probably my favorite time of the year on my favorite surface."

Earlier, Federer extended his unbeaten streak to 22 matches with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Thomas Johansson of Sweden.

Both Roddick and Kiefer had a hard time converting break opportunities in the first set. Kiefer had a triple-break point in the fifth game but Roddick used his cannon-like serves to come back with five straight points. Roddick later had two set points but Kiefer came back to tie it at 5.

Roddick hit four consecutive aces to go up, 6-5, and then broke Kiefer's serve to take the set. Roddick got another break to take a 4-2 lead before closing out the match in about 90 minutes to advance.

Federer said he looked forward to facing Roddick again in the final.

"I think a lot of people are and trying to build (the rivalry) up," Federer said. "It is normal, especially since we have been kind of dominating the tour a little bit, since I would say after the French Open."

In the early match, Federer rallied from a sloppy first set that included several unforced errors and came out strong in the second, breaking Johansson to take a commanding 4-1 lead before closing it out. *AP*

Myskina takes long route to Acura final

SAN DIEGO, California—French Open champion Anastasia Myskina saved nine match points to outlast fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, in a thriller on Saturday to reach the final of the $1.3-million Acura Classic.

"I really wanted to win," Myskina told reporters. "I didn't think how I was going to win, I just fought for every point." The third seed now meets American Lindsay Davenport, who earlier in the day stormed into her third successive final by overcoming Russia's Elena Dementieva, 6-2, 6-4.

Davenport, the fourth seed, beat Serena Williams last week to win the JP Morgan Chase title and Venus Williams to clinch the Stanford title the previous week.

In a remarkable tussle lasting two hours 28 minutes, the volatile Myskina had to call upon all her reserves to down her Fed Cup teammate.

The match featured frequent outbursts by Myskina, 23, aimed at her coach, Jens Erlach. Zvonareva, 19, also twice clubbed balls over the stadium in frustration.

DAVENPORT: Finalist again AFP

Myskina saved the first match point at 4-5 down in the third set when Zvonareva was wild with a backhand down the line.

The tiebreak in the deciding set see-sawed back and forth, both women coming up with amazing shots at crunch times before Myskina clinched it, 17-15. *Reuters*

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	I, ROBOT	11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
2	CATWOMAN	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3	IMELDA	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.00
5	ELLA ENCHANTED	10:10, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
6	CATWOMAN	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
7	KING ARTHUR	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
8	SPIDER-MAN 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
10	ALONG CAME POLLY	11:40, 1:40, 3.40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	CATWOMAN	10:10, 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
3	I, ROBOT	10:10, 12:30, 2.50, 5:10, 7:30, 9.50
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	11.30, 2.00, 4:30, 7.00, 9:40
5	ELLA ENCHANTED	10:20, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
6	CATWOMAN	11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
7	KING ARTHUR	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	IMELDA	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	CATWOMAN	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 10:35
3	KING ARTHUR	10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 9.00
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	11:50, 2:30, 5.10, 7.50, 10:30
5	I, ROBOT	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6	ELLA ENCHANTED	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7	CATWOMAN	10.25, 1:05, 3:45, 6:25, 9:05
8	SPIDER-MAN 2	10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 9:00

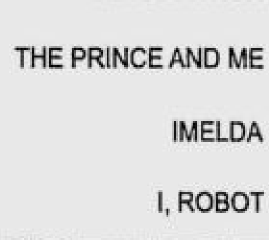
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

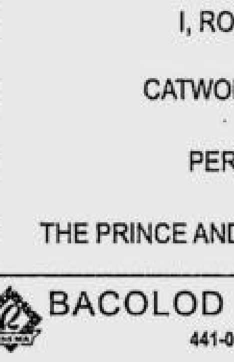
Cinema	Movie	Times
1	CATWOMAN	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:25
2	I, ROBOT	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:20
3	KING ARTHUR	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6.15, 8:40
4	ALONG CAME POLLY	10.50, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6.35, 8:30
5	ELLA ENCHANTED	11:00, 1:20, 3 40, 6.00, 8.30
6	SPIDER-MAN 2	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
7	THE PRINCE AND ME	11:30, 1.45, 4:00, 6.15, 8:30
8	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	10:30, 1:00, 3.30, 6.00, 8 30

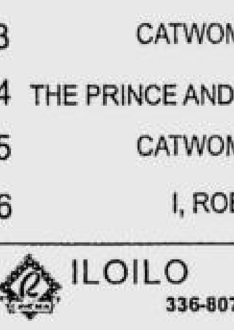
Cinema	Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1	I, ROBOT	CATWOMAN	CATWOMAN
2	CATWOMAN	ELLA ENCHANTED	MEAN GIRLS
3	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	I, ROBOT	THE PRINCE AND ME
4	ELLA ENCHANTED	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	I, ROBOT
5			BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Cinema	LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1	CATWOMAN	ALONG CAME POLLY	ALONG CAME.POLLY
2	KING ARTHUR	I, ROBOT	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3	THE PRINCE AND ME	CATWOMAN	CATWOMAN
4	IMELDA	PERLAS	THE PRINCE AND ME
5	I, ROBOT	THE PRINCE AND ME	CATWOMAN
6			I, ROBOT

Cinema	IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-04[illegible]/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1	CATWOMAN	CATWOMAN	CATWOMAN
2	I, ROBOT	IMELDA	I, ROBOT
3	ELLA ENCHANTED	KING ARTHUR	SPARTAN
4	CATWOMAN	I, ROBOT	KING ARTHUR
5	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	ELLA ENCHANTED	LIBERATED 2
6	ALONG CAME POLLY	MEAN GIRLS	ALONG CAME POLLY







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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Sound	Movie	Times
3	Dolby	CATWOMAN	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
4	SDDS	I, ROBOT	12:50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm
5	dts	ELLA ENCHANTED	11:40 am 2:00 pm 4:20 pm 6:40 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby	IMELDA	11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5.00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Aug 6	GARY V CONCERT
Aug 7	UAAP: La Salle vs. U E
Aug 8	UAAP: F E U vs. Ateneo
Aug 12	UAAP Game- 2nd ROUND
Aug 13	NIGHT OF THE CHAMPIONS THE REPEAT
Aug 14	UAAP Game- 2nd ROUND
Aug 15	CCF WORSHIP SERVICE

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIRAM
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1 & 2	I ROBOT / CATWOMAN
PREMERE THEATRE	IMELDA
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GHOST HOUSE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCE & ME
CINEMA-6	KILL BILL VOL. 2
CINEMA-7	WEREWOLF
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-12	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-14	ALONG CAME POLLY
CINEMA-15	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	CATWOMAN	11:35, 2:10, 4:45 7:20, 10:05	GP
2	CATWOMAN	12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30	GP
3	I, ROBOT	11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20	PG-13
4	ELLA ENCHANTED	12:40, 3:00, 5:20 7:40, 10:20	GP

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ELLA ENCHANTED GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	I, ROBOT PG13 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10	CATWOMAN GP 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
IMELDA GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	ALONG CAME POLLY PG13 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	CATWOMAN GP 2:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

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GP

CINEMA 2 I. ROBOT
11:10, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PG-13

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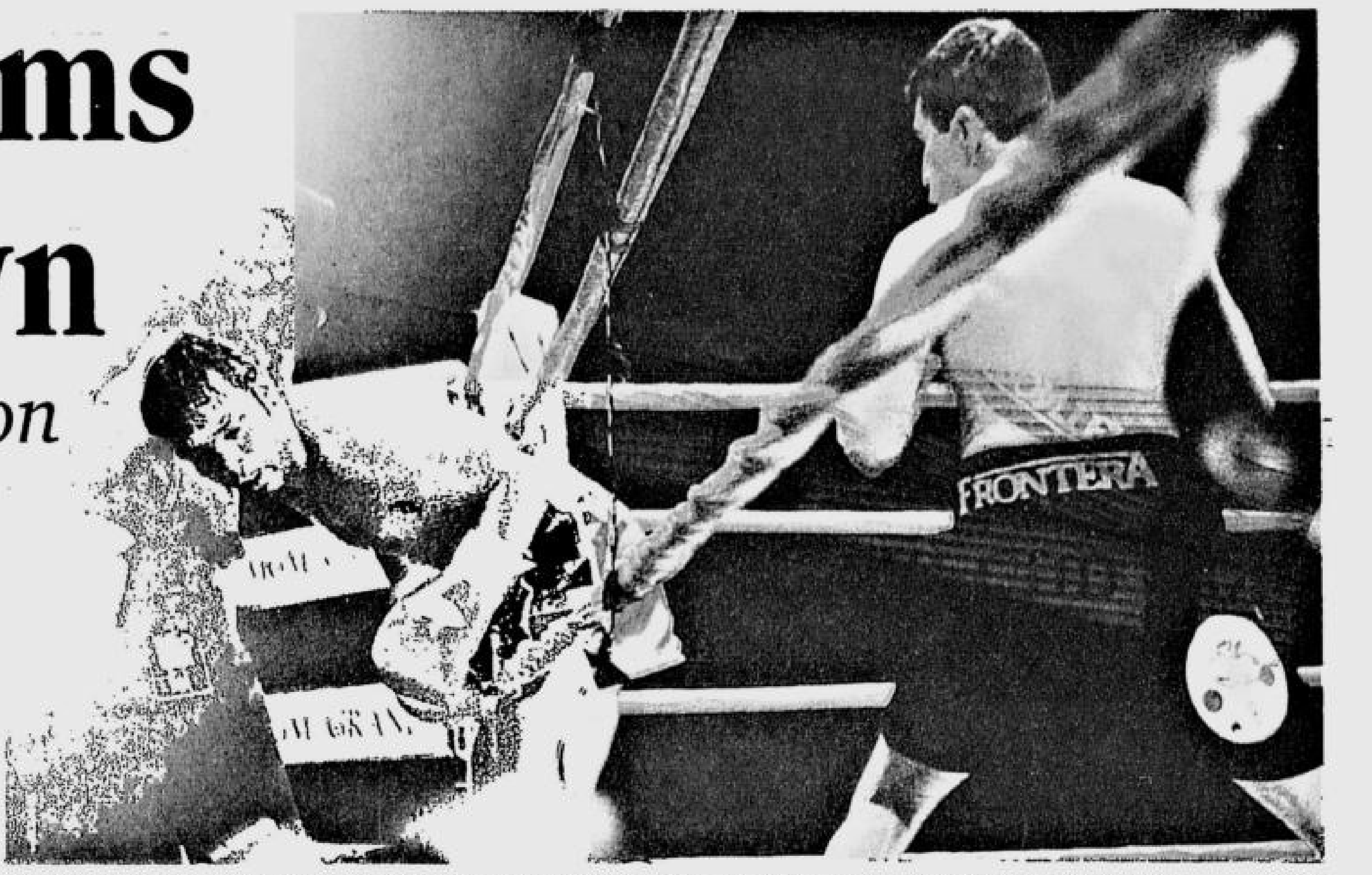
Morales claims unified crown

Beats Hernandez via decision



MORALES (right) had Hernandez in trouble as early as the first round, putting the IBF champion against the ropes. REUTERS

LAS VEGAS—Erik Morales said Carlos Hernandez had the heart, but not the skill, to beat him. That pre-fight analysis was right on.

Morales peppered Hernandez with jabs and rocked him with uppercuts to take an unanimous decision Saturday night in their super featherweight title unification bout.

WBC champion Morales, who has held crowns in three weight classes, added Hernandez's IBF title.

Although he won by scores of 119-109 on two cards and 115-113 on the other, Morales finished the bout with great respect for the brawling Hernandez.

"Carlos is a very tough man," Morales said through a translator. "He is very strong with a big heart. I thought he brought out the best in me."

It was a very hard-fought match. After the final bell, the appreciative crowd of 8,611 at the MGM Grand gave a standing ovation—to both fighters.

"Everybody tells me this was a great fight, and I believe it," Hernandez said. "This may be the best fight Morales ever fought, and the best fight I've ever fought.

"I'm sad because I lost, but I'm proud of the way I fought."

Morales, a considerably more polished fighter than Hernandez, dominated the 12-round bout most of the way, with Hernandez having the edge in only a couple of rounds.

There were no knockdowns, and, although Hernandez was a little wobbly several times after taking hard shots, neither fighter seemed in serious trouble.

Usually circling to use his two-inch height and five-inch reach advantage against the 5-foot-6 Hernandez, Morales consistently landed shots to the head and body as Hernandez tried to duck inside.

Even when Hernandez was able to get in close, the 27-year-old Morales (47-1, 34 knockouts) countered well, with his right uppercut particularly effective. *AP*

Singh grabs 2-stroke lead in Buick Open

ANOTHER title is in sight for Singh. REUTERS

FLINT, Michigan—Fiji's Vijay Singh has been a model of consistency throughout his career, something that can't be said of his nearest rival at this week's tournament—John Daly.

Singh carded a seven-under-par 65 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead over American Daly after the third round of the Buick Open.

"I played obviously quite well," Singh said. "It was quite a tough day, the wind was blowing quite strong."

As if the odd couple of golf playing together was not enough of an attraction, superstar Tiger Woods is tied for third, three shots off the pace.

Singh, who has 10 top-10 finishes—including three victories—in 20 events this year, is at 18-under 198. He played near perfect golf Saturday, recording seven birdies without a bogey.

Daly, who has a win and four top-10 finishes in 14 tournaments in 2004, had a scorching front nine that featured five birdies and a bogey. He added a birdie at No. 10 and capped his 66 by draining a five-footer at No. 18.

Woods also had a 66, carding six birdies without a bogey. He has just one win in 13 events this year—in the WGC Match-play—but has managed nine top-10 finishes.

Defending champion Jim Furyk is tied for sixth at 13-under 203 after a 70 on Saturday. He shared the second-round lead with Singh and Billy Andrade.

Andrade fell into a tie for 11th at 10-under 206 after a 73.

Singh said he looks forward to Sunday's pairing.

"He's a good guy," Singh said of Daly. "I like John a lot and think I'm going to have a bit of fun with him tomorrow."

Said Daly, "Me and Vijay are pretty good friends. We've played quite a bit of golf together. ... It will be fun."

Daly drained three consecutive long birdie putts beginning at No. 2 but gave a stroke back by three-putting at the par-4 fifth.

He rebounded with birdies at Nos. 7, 9 and 10 and pulled alone into second place by rolling home a five-footer at No. 18.

Daly felt being in the last group with Singh had at least one advantage.

"I would rather be in the last group on Sunday because you already know what the guys are doing in front of you and you have that opportunity to get it back," he said.

"Then you can see what Vijay is doing the whole time, so I would definitely rather be in the last group."

Woods had just three birdies through the first 12 holes but moved into contention with birdies at Nos. 13, 14 and 16.

"The golf course was soft and you had to be aggressive," Woods said. "You had to make a bunch of birdies today and I was able to make six of them today with no bogeys, which is nice."

The Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club course is a 7,127-yard layout. First prize is $810,000. *AFP*

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Dazzling victory by Crystal Show

By Edwin Villanueva,
Contributor

CRYSTAL Show held off Time Gentleman in the final strides to the wire to steal the show in the fourth leg of the Philracom Imported Stakes yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Guided superbly by apprentice star Louie Balboa, the Hermie Esguerra-owned galloper simply tucked in behind stablemate Royal Catch in the early going before exploding in front at the far turn and opening a three-length lead entering the final bend.

That gap was enough to cushion a late Time Gentleman rally as Crystal Show gamely held on under Balboa's strong handling to prevail by a head.

"*Hangga't di umabot sa meta di ko talaga tinantanan ang ayuda. Salamat nanalo naman* (I really didn't let up in urging my mount up to the wire. It was good we won)," said Balboa, sweating profusely moments after dismounting the far third choice in the betting.

Crystal Show, a five-year-old bay mare sired by Hurricane Sky out of Crystal Snip, became the second Esguerra entry to advance to the championship of the series after Neat Laurel, the second leg champion also driven to victory by Balboa.

Previous leg winners were Putch Puyat's Key Apo and Sandy Javier's Sexiest.

"It's a team effort. I'd like to commend my jockey (Balboa) and of course my trainer Nestor Manalang for a wonderful job," said Esguerra; who was rewarded with the P270,000 first prize courtesy of the Philracom.

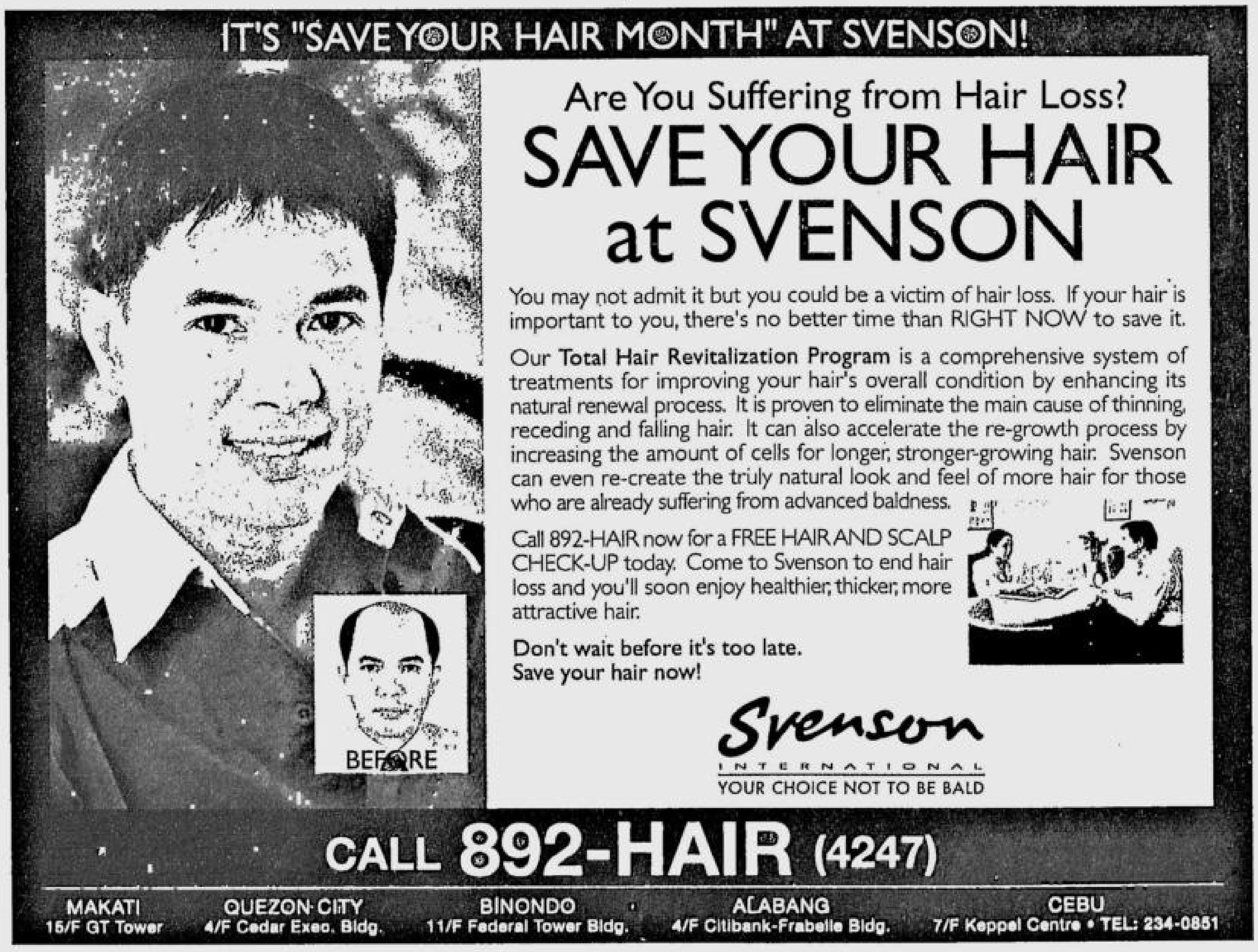
Time Gentleman, the second favorite handled by Jonathan Hernandez, settled for P101,250, after tasting another heartbreaker. The Australian import also landed second to Sexiest in the last leg.

"*Impresibo siya sa mga workouts at ipinakita niya ito ngayon* (She was impressive in workouts and she showed it again today)," said Manalang, whose charger also triumphed in the Philtourism Cup last June 13.

Top pick Being There, with Antonio Alcasid Jr. aboard, was never in contention, arriving only third, two lengths off the winner. Glamour was fourth then came American Dame, Royal Catch and Cycles.

Crystal Show covered the 1,500-m contest in 1:33.5, submitting splits of 18-24-24.5-27.

Earlier, Sexiest (Bite the Bullet-Gainsville) topped the Ambassador's Cup under Manolito Daquis, while Successful Dream (Khozaam-Puppet Master) of the Franchino Farms ruled the Consular's Cup under the whip of Jeffril Zarate.



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Suarez leads chase for World Cup slots

SUAREZ PDI PHOTO

THE COUNTRY'S leading bowlers, led by reigning World Cup champion CJ Suarez, have started their bids for the Bowling World Cup national title in 25 venues all over the country.

The first qualifying period is under way at Paeng's Towncenter Bowl, Paeng's Greenbelt Bowl, Paeng's Sugarbowl-Bacolod, Xybr Bowl, Paeng's Skybowl, SM Fairview, Q Plaza, Paeng's Eastwood Bowl, Metromall, Puyat Sports Baguio, Grand Central, Astrobowl, Coronado Makati, Starlanes, SM West, SM Megamall, Bowling Inn, Metropolis Alabang, Commonwealth, Superbowl Pearl Plaza, Peng's Freedom Bowl Imus, Power Bowl-Rockwell, Coastal Lanes and Paeng's Midtown Bowl.

The second qualifying period will start on Aug. 23 up to the night before each center finals.

The top six bowlers from Paeng's Town Center Bowl, Paeng's Sugarbowl-Bacolod, Xybr Bowl, Q Plaza, SM Fairview, Paeng's Greenbelt Bowl and Paeng's Skybowl and the top 10 from the rest of the venues will make it to the center finals.

The men's and ladies' champions will represent the country in the 40th World Cup international finals in December in Singapore.

Last year, Suarez became only the fourth Filipino to win the World Cup after Paeng Nepomuceno, who bagged the men's title four times, and the late Lita de la Rosa and Bong Coo, who each triumphed in the women's competition once.

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Customs exceeds 7-month collection goal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs collected a higher-than-expected P10.72 billion in July, continuing to boost government's struggling efforts to raise more revenue and address its budget problems.

The P10.72-billion collection for July was 9 percent higher than the target of P9.84 billion. It was also 17.1-percent higher than the P9.16-billion collection during the same month last year. The July collection figure indicated that the customs bureau had surpassed its monthly goals for seven months in a row now this year.

The July collection of the BOC, the second biggest revenue-earning government agency after the Bureau of Internal Revenue, brought its cumulative revenue contribution to P71.29 billion for the first seven months of the year.

The seven-month collection figure for this year was 13 percent higher than the P63.1-billion target. It was also 14.6 percent higher than the P62.19 billion recorded during the same period in 2003.

Because of the BOC's positive revenue-collection performance, the Department of Finance is planning to raise its yearly revenue collection targets over the medium term. The DOF said the trend that has been set by the BOC for the past months indicated that the customs bureau could achieve more than its current targets.

"Assuming that the BOC would just meet the monthly targets (in the second half), the likely collection outcome is P119.2 billion," according to a DOF memo. The P119.2 billion is about 6 percent higher than the P112.6 billion that the BOC is tasked to collect this year.

The DOF has already increased BOC's collection target twice this year after recording high monthly collections. The BOC was originally tasked to collect P105 billion for this year before it was raised to P110 billion, and then later to P112.6 billion.

The DOF took note of the huge revenue collection of the BOC from excise taxes on imported products. The finance department said collection from excise taxes largely accounted for the better-than-programmed collection of customs.

In an internal memo, the DOF said that while the BOC's expected excise tax collection by end-2004 was only set at P1.9 billion, it had already collected P6.1 bil-

CUSTOMS/ B3

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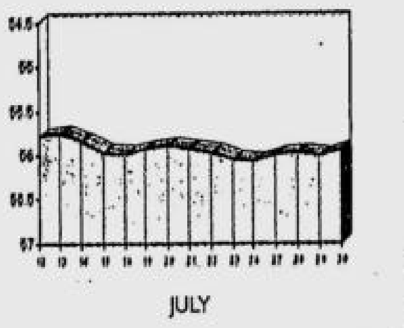


P 55.95 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 30, 2004

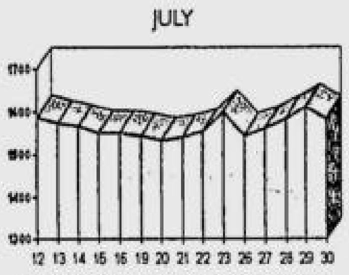
¥ 111.67 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., July 30, 2004

GOLD: $389.40-389.90
per ounce Hong Kong, July 30, 2004

August 30, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830565	1.000000	56.0090
Japan	Yen	0.007413	0.008925	0.4999
United Kingdom	Pound	1.508804	1.816600	101.7459
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106491	0.128215	7.1812
Switzerland	Franc	0.648625	0.780945	43.7399
Canada	Dollar	0.627031	0.754945	42.2837
Singapore	Dollar	0.481738	0.580013	32.4859
Australia	Dollar	0.580490	0.698910	39.1453
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.203207	2.652661	148.5729
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221478	0.266660	14.9354
Brunei	Dollar	0.480346	0.578336	32.3920
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.020081	0.024178	1.3542
UAE	Dirham	0.226140	0.272272	15.2497
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.204000	67.4348
Argentina	Peso	0.278900	0.335796	18.8076
Brazil	Real	0.273662	0.329489	18.4543
Denmark	Kroner	0.134520	0.161962	9.0713
India	Rupee	0.017919	0.021575	1.2084
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218581	0.263172	14.7400
Mexico	New Peso	0.072729	0.087566	4.9045
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526574	0.633995	35.5094
Norway	Kroner	0.118286	0.142416	7.9766
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014502	0.017461	0.9780
South Africa	Rand	0.132574	0.159619	8.9401
Korea	Won	0.000711	0.000856	0.0479
Sweden	Kroner	0.108237	0.130317	7.2989
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024435	0.029420	1.6478

STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen



(See stock market report on Page B6)

INVESTORS are expected to remain cautious and wait for more signals from corporate earnings before entering the market.

Analysts said investors would also watch for signs of selling pressure in Lopez-owned shares such as utility firm Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) after the Court of Appeals voided a June 2003 decision by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) allowing it to raise power rates by 17 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

"Investors would want to know how local authorities would honor earlier fiscal measures, as this might affect other macro policies that would be implemented within the power sector," Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia.com, said.

She added that companies expected to announce better-than-anticipated results might be favored and should soften any market drop.

CAUTIOUS/ B6

Land Bank eyes sale of ₱20B in bad loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines is in talks with three big foreign investors on the possible sale of P20 billion worth of non-performing assets under the framework of the Special Purpose Vehicle Law.

Land Bank president Margarito Teves identified the three possible investors as US investment banks Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch and Japan-based Shinsei Bank.

Teves said the talks were still exploratory but the bank hoped to meet the September deadline for the registration with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas of assets to be sold through the SPV mode.

"If the BSP will agree, we will register the assets but we will ask for additional time to be able to dispose of the assets," Teves said.

"We plan to sell the assets through a bidding by March next year," he noted.

The assets to be auctioned off would consist of P15 billion worth of non-performing loans and P5 billion worth of real and other properties owned and acquired (ropoa), he said. The bank tapped Ernst and Young as its financial adviser for the activity.

The assets on the block will represent 63 percent of the bank's

LAND BANK/ B6

GERMAN AMBASSADOR VISITS DTI
German Ambassador to the Philippines Herbert D. Jess (right) discusses with Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima (center) Germany's latest initiative to promote their country. With them are First Secretary and head of the economic and commercial section Elke Peter Sacksofsky (left) and ECCP executive vice president Henry J. Schumacher.

PLDT profit seen breaching ₱20B this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.'s record-breaking first-half performance is likely to lift the company's earnings above the P20-billion mark by the end of the year.

Analysts were projecting a full-year income of P20 billion to P24 billion for PLDT in 2004. PLDT's own 2004 target is P18 billion.

"We would announce very good results for the first half. You might be surprised," PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said. PLDT will announce its second-quarter results tomorrow.

Expectations of a strong first six months' earnings drove PLDT's share price to a high of P1,300 last week, before closing at P1,250 Friday.

The telecom giant is seen to surpass the P11.2-billion profit for the whole of 2003 in the first half this year on account of Smart Communication Inc.'s robust earnings of about P12 billion as of end-June.

Smart subscribers stood at 16.8 million by the end of the first half.

The wireless subsidiary of PLDT is now looking at 20 million subscribers and P20 billion in net profit by the end of the year.

However, changes in the revenue-sharing deal with Pilipino Telephone Corp. could affect Smart's bottom line, according to a company official.

Even Piltel is expected to post substantial earnings this year, particularly once it gets a higher share of its wireless revenue from Talk N' Text. Piltel registered a net income of P8 million in the first quarter, a turnaround from losses of P3.35 billion for the whole of 2003.

PLDT registered a net income of P5.24 billion in the first quarter while Smart netted P5.15 billion. In end-June 2003, PLDT's P6.6 billion in profit shrank to P1.8 billion due to provisions for job cuts and other losses while Smart posted a net income of P6.1 billion.

Most analysts said PLDT's net income in the second quarter ranged between P6 billion and P7 billion.

BNP Paribas, in its review of Philippines telecom performance in May, estimated that PLDT would increase its net income to P20.82 billion this year from P11.2 billion last year.

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RP and Thailand: Estranged twins

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

YOU'VE heard it said many times how the Philippines and Thailand used to be virtual twins a few decades ago—and how dramatically we have parted ways since then. I looked up some of the numbers to make this commonly-cited assertion more concrete.

Historical parallels

The similarity was rather stark in the 1960s. Unfortunately, I could only get as far back as 1973 on population and income per capita data from the material I could readily pull out, but even then, we were still quite similar as recently as three decades ago. The numbers below come from the World Bank's database.

In 1973, the two countries had very similar average incomes. Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was $270; the Philippines had $250. While I can't find the exact numbers right now, I know for a fact that we were higher than Thailand on this measure just several years before that. In fact, it is well known that we were second only to Japan in the entire region in the 1960s. But by 2002, Thailand's income per capita ($2,000) was already twice ours ($1,030).

Thailand's population was 39 million in 1973; ours was 40 million. Again, the two had been exactly equal just several years before that. Interestingly, both countries' populations had grown at exactly the same brisk pace between 1965 and 1973, at 3.1 percent per year. But from 1980 to 1990, Thailand's annual population growth rate had slowed down to 1.8 percent, while ours averaged at 2.4 percent. By 2002, we Filipinos numbered 80 million, while the Thais had only grown to 62 million. And Thailand's annual population growth rate has since slowed down further to 0.7 percent, while we have stayed at the 2.3-2.4 percent range.

Economic structures

The swing in the country's relative fortunes is even more telling when one looks at the structures of the two countries' respective economies. Agriculture contributed 32 percent of Thailand's total gross domestic product (GDP) in 1965; for the Philippines, the share was smaller, at 26 percent. That was a time when UP Los Baños was teeming with Thai agriculture students. I should know; I grew up there (my elder sister even had a Thai boyfriend!).

We were relatively more industrialized than Thailand then: Thai industry accounted for 23 percent of its total output, while the industrial sector made up 27.5 percent of total production in the Philippines. Services accounted for 45.2 percent of output in Thailand; in the Philippines, the share was 46.7 percent.

What a difference four decades can make. Now, Thai agriculture, highly productive as it is, accounts for just 9.4 percent of total output, while in the Philippines, agriculture's share is 14.7 percent. The industrial sector makes up 42.7 percent of Thailand's total output; in the Philippines, the share is 32.5 percent. Services make up 48 percent in Thailand; in the Philippines it is 52.8 percent.

Gross domestic investment as a percent of GDP in 1965 was 19.7 percent for Thailand and 20.8 percent for the Philippines. Gross national savings made up 18.5 percent of GDP in Thailand, and 20.3 percent in the Philippines. By 1991, the countries' fortunes had already reversed dramatically. Thailand had 39 percent gross domestic investment, while the Philippines only had 20 percent. Savings had gone up to 30.4 percent for Thailand, but had hardly moved at only 21.3 percent for the Philippines. In 1998, Thailand attracted $7.8 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI), while we settled for $2.3 billion. With such high saving rate coupled with three times as much FDI, it's no wonder Thailand has less than a million unemployed workers while we have over five million.

In 1965, we were identical twins on our foreign trade structures: exports and imports each accounted for 17 percent of the two countries' total production. Now, Thai exports account for 65 percent of their GDP, while imports are equivalent to 57.5 percent. In the Philippines, exports account for only 48.9 percent, while imports represent a bigger percentage at 49.4 percent.

Infrastructure, technology

It just takes a visit to Bangkok to see how far behind we have fallen on infrastructure and technology. The World Bank numbers are quite telling: as of 1998, only 19.8 percent of our total roads were paved while Thailand had 97.5 percent. With their smaller population, Thailand had 4.8 million Internet users in 2002; we only had 3.5 million. They had 39.8 personal computers per 1,000 people; we had 27.7. They had 365.5 telephone lines per 1,000 people; we had 232.9. The list goes on and on. And I haven't even gone into human development indicators yet.

Obviously, something has been terribly wrong with the way we have managed our affairs compared with our estranged twin of four decades ago. Some of the figures above give us some clues as to what we did wrong. One thing is clear: we do have a lot to learn from this particular neighbor of ours. Maybe the government should send a small delegation there to pick up a lesson or two.

A dramatic reversal, sadly, from that time not too long ago when they considered us their mentor, in agriculture and in many other things besides. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

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MRT-7 likely to get credit guarantee

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE WORLD Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corp. have agreed in principle to extend a credit guarantee to the planned MRT-7 railway project, according to the project proponent.

MRT-7 railway will run from Marilao in Bulacan to Quezon Ave.(Edsa), Quezon City.

A political risk insurance will help Universal LRT Corp., the group that offered to undertake the MRT-7 project, secure a reasonably-priced funding despite risks in the domestic market.

Universal LRT Corp. chair Roberto de Ocampo said 75 percent of the project cost would have to be financed with loans and the remaining 25 percent, with shareholders' equity.

De Ocampo noted that the government would not be asked to provide any subsidy or guarantee to the project, which should make it easier for the authorities to fast-track the approval of the consortium's unsolicited offer to take on the project.

"The Opic and the Miga (a World Bank unit) are both ready to provide guarantees. Opic may cover private sector risks, while Miga may cover the political risks," said De Ocampo in an interview.

He said the consortium was preparing documents to obtain a final first-pass approval from the Investment Coordination Committee. After this, the government would open the unsolicited project proposal to a Swiss challenge to allow other interested parties to top the offer of Universal LRT Corp.

"We should be able to complete the two steps between now and September. If all things fall into place, we would move toward the financial completion. The actual ground breaking could happen in late 2005," said the former finance secretary.

A first-pass approval is the government's confirmation that the project is important and necessary. The go-ahead is required before the group can start convincing creditors to finance the project.

He said the group would like to complete the fundraising within 12 months.

De Ocampo, who is also the president of Asian Institute of Management, said the transport department had clarified to the

MRT-7/ B7

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Bernabe Navarro
Former President, La Tondeña Distillers, Inc.
Former Manager, PBA Ginebra San Miguel Basketball Team
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From page B1

lion as of end-April. Based on the DOF's assessment, the BOC could generate about P12.5 billion in excise taxes this year.

The DOF said that its computations showed that the BOC's revenue target for 2005 could be raised from the current P121.5 billion to P129.5 billion; for 2006, from P135 billion to P177 billion; for 2007, from P147.7 billion to P158.1 billion; for 2008, from P160.3 billion to P171.6 billion; for 2009, from P173.39 billion to P185.7 billion, and for 2010, from P183.8 billion to P197.17 billion.

The higher collection from excise tax can be attributed to the shutdown of a Caltex oil refinery that led to an increase in the importation of oil, a major source of excise tax for the BOC.

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EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK

NOTICE OF 2004 ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the 2004 annual stockholders' meeting of EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK, INC., will be held on Friday, September 10, 2004, at 8:00 A.M., at the Lower Lobby, ExportBank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Secretary's Proof of Due Notice of the Meeting and Determination of Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of previous Annual Stockholders' Meeting
4. Management Report
5. Ratification of Acts of the Board of Directors and Management During the Previous Year
6. Amendment of Articles of Incorporation To Increase the Authorized Capital Stock by Increasing The Number of Preferred Shares
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Written nominations for candidates to the Board of Directors to be elected during said annual meeting should be submitted not later than 5:00 P.M., August 13, 2004 (Friday), to the Office of the Corporate Secretary, Export And Industry Bank, Inc., 37/F ExportBank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Nominations for candidates for Independent Directors must be signed by the nominating stockholder/s and must contain the acceptance/conformity of the would-be nominees, as required by the Securities Regulation Code.

Common and preferred shareholders of record as of August 13, 2004 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, said meeting. The stock and transfer books of the Corporation will NOT be closed.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting and if you wish to, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a signed PROXY instrument to the Corporate Secretary, Export and Industry Bank, 37/F ExportBank Plaza, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m., September 1, 2004 (Wednesday), for verification and record purposes. The proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of the Corporation Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code.

Makati City, 30 July 2004.

(Sgd.)
RAMON F. AVIADO, JR.
Corporate Secretary

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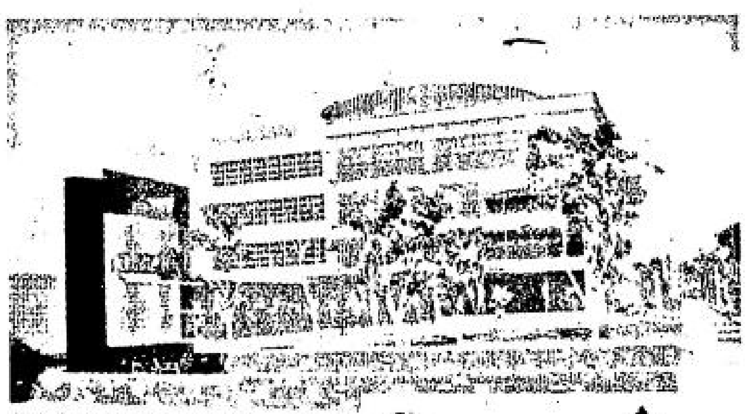
Filinvest has made its mark in corporate real estate through two flagship projects: PBCom Tower in Makati and Northgate CyberZone in Alabang. Both PEZA-registered information technology zones, they have become preferred locations for leading contact centers, major multinationals and business outsource companies. With industry icons as locators, and several build-to-suit offices nearing completion, Filinvest is definitely a major contender in the prime office space market. By the end of 2005, Filinvest will have over 72,000 square meters of Grade A office buildings.

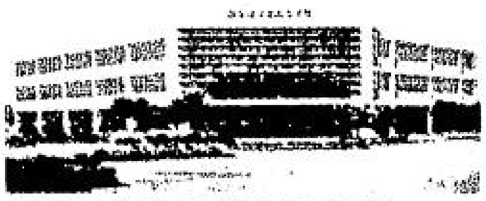
Designed to inspire innovation at all hours of the day or night, Northgate CyberZone is the first information technology hub in the south. With intelligent buildings set in a refreshing campus environment, locators enjoy PEZA incentives and the unparalleled advantage of being part of Filinvest Corporate City, a master-planned urban center that puts you near the most exciting developments in the south.


Plaz@ Building C

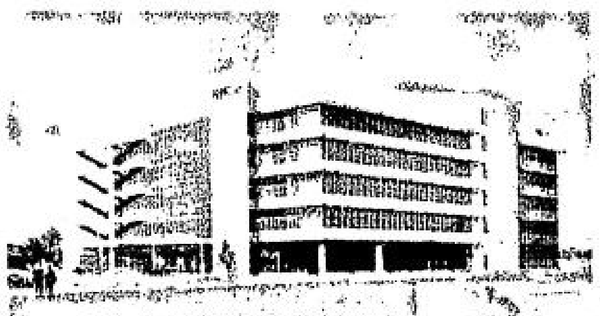
APAC contract signing

Two Plaz@ buildings, designed by leading Silicon Valley architect Studios Architecture, now have a tenant roster of call centers and high-tech companies. APAC Customer Services, Inc., the sole occupant of one Plaz@ Building, is a leading provider of customer interaction solutions with 34 contact centers across the United States.

Targeted for completion in August 2004, Convergys will house 500 to 700 seats. Convergys Corporation is the world's largest provider of integrated billing, customer care and employee care services. The 3-storey building, covering 65,000 square feet, is being constructed under a build-to-suit arrangement.


Convergys Northgate Cyberzone Center

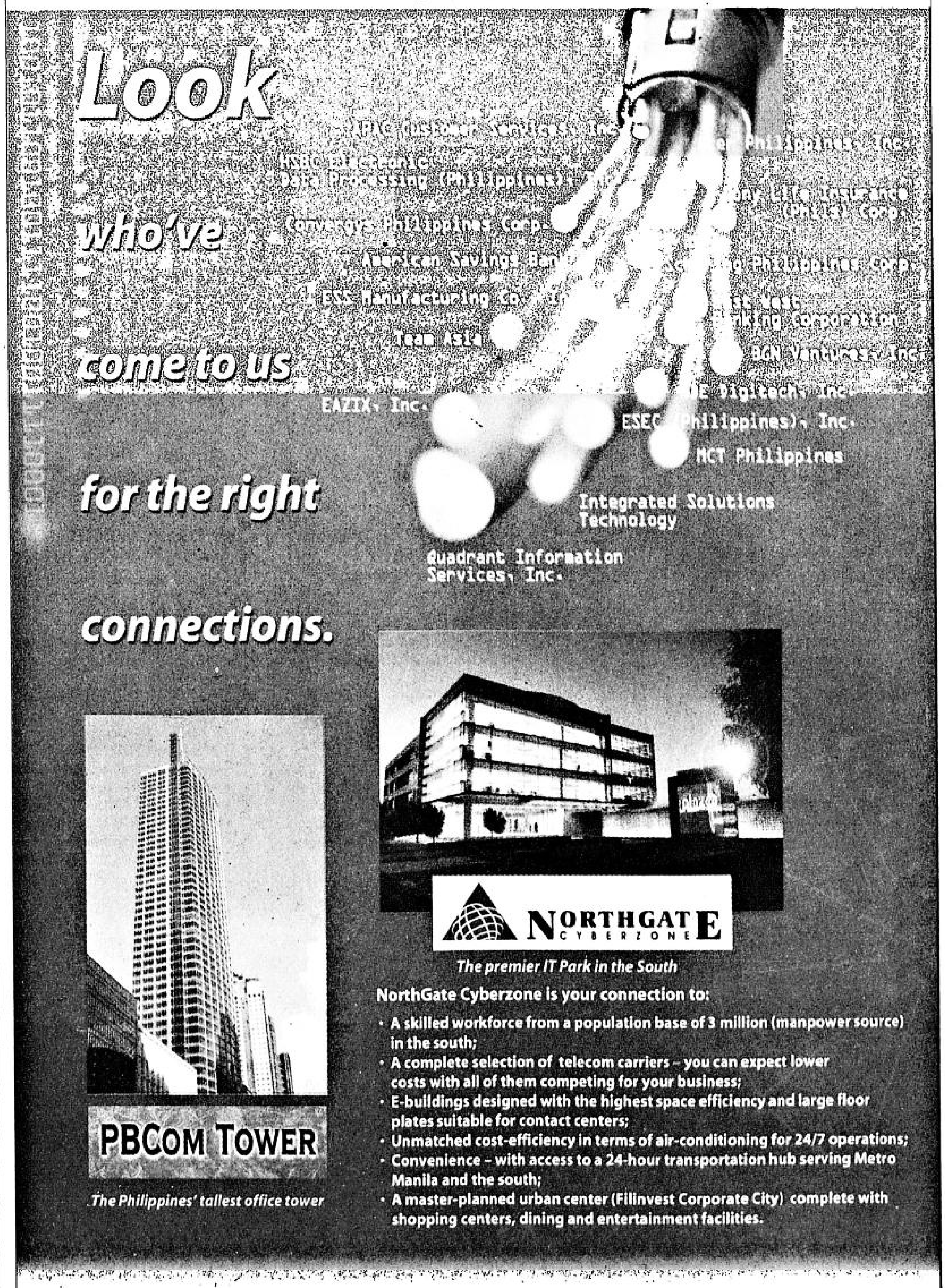
The UK-based HSBC Group is locating its 8th Group service center in Asia, the HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines), Inc. (HDPP) in Northgate CyberZone. HDPP will occupy a 5-story building of 18,000 sqm, which is scheduled for completion in mid-2005.


HSBC Building

Groundbreaking

The entry of these companies strengthens the Philippines' position as the preferred location for outsourced business operations in Asia. Northgate CyberZone complements their 24/7 operations with its accessibility, comprehensive infrastructure, lifestyle amenities and package of tax incentives for qualified technology locators.

www.northgate-cyberzone.com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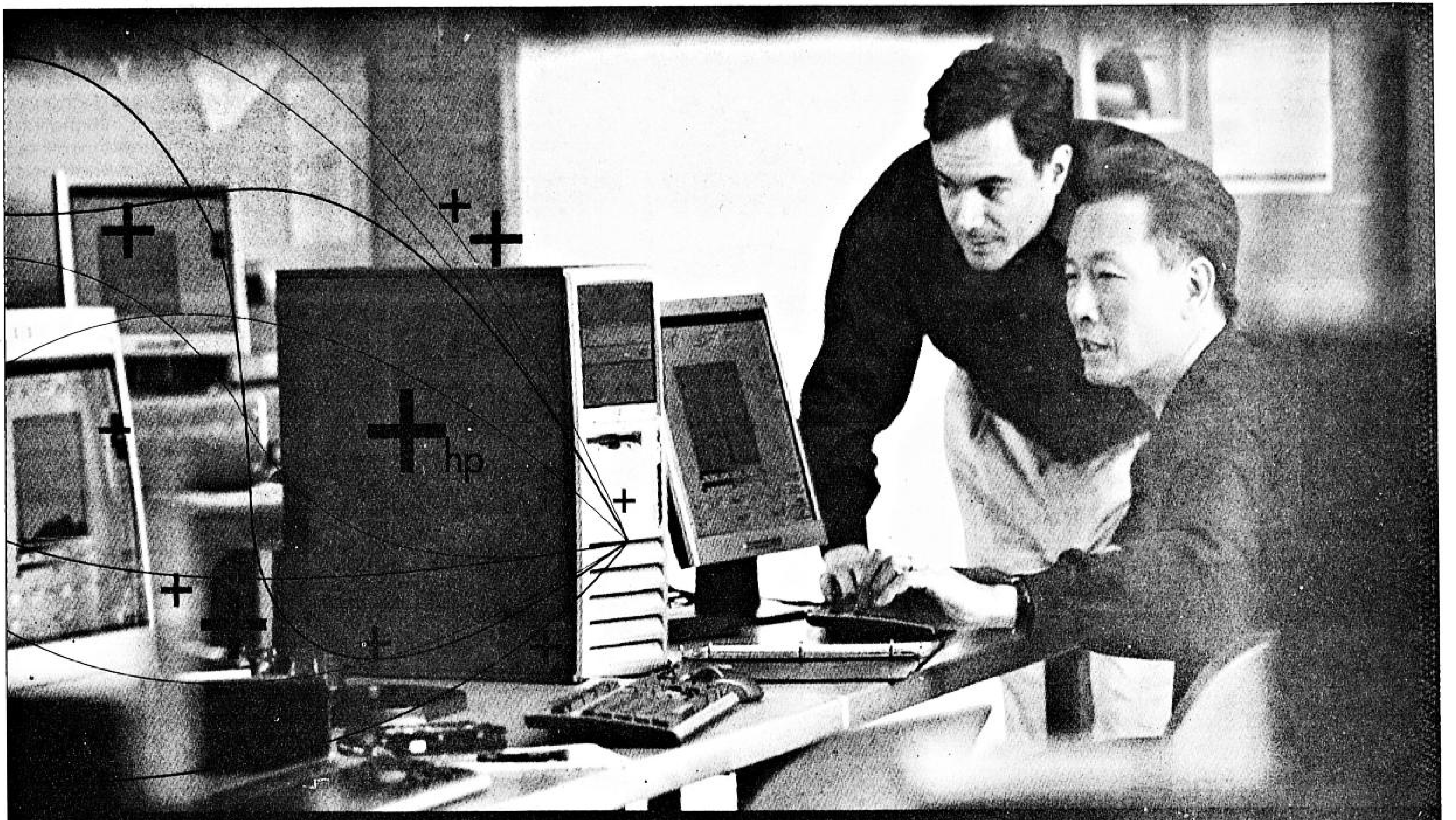

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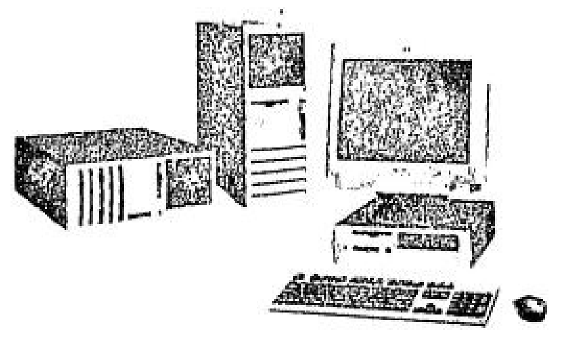

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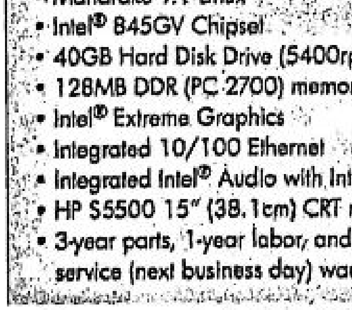

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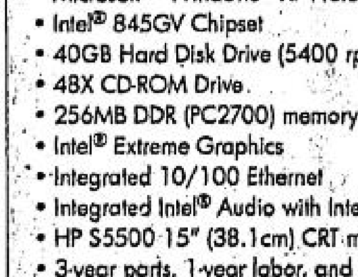

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*Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 1Q 2004

Smart's killer app

LEADING cellular phone company Smart has introduced what arguably is a killer application with a worldwide advertising and sales blitz in foreign cities that host many Filipino workers. It launched yesterday the world's first international text-based cash remittance facility.

The service enables a Philippine recipient to be instantaneously informed that, for example, a Hong Kong maid had already wired up to a maximum of P10,000 into the recipient's Smart cell phone account.

With that confirmation, the Smart cell phone holder may collect the remitted money not only from any bank's Expressnet and Megalink ATM but also from select Tambunting pawnshops as well as McDonald's and 7-11 stores.

What Smart did was to provide Smart cell phone services to participating overseas remittance offices and their local outlets as well as local banks. It is the overseas remittance centers, after receipt of the sender's money, which will electronically wire the funds to the local recipient's account.

More important, Smart provided a local revolving fund in the Smart Money ATM account from where local recipients could instantaneously withdraw money, without waiting for the usual three-day clearance-waiting time from the overseas "padala" centers.

"This newest service would hopefully build brand loyalty among the C, D and E classes, whose families constitute the bulk of the more than eight million Filipino workers overseas," said Anastacio "Boy" Martirez, Smart personal communications and mobile services chief.

As an incentive, the remittance centers plus McDonald's, 7-11 and Tambunting are entitled to a spread, whose maximum charge, at P1 for every P100 encashed, is still cheaper than the usual P300-fee that door-to-door firms charge.

Despite fears of hacking, Martirez is confident about the computer security features of the text money-transfer facility. An overseas sender is limited to 10 transactions a day, which translate to a maximum of P100,000 remitted in a day.

Winston's Dragon squeeze

POOR Winston Garcia. Lately the headstrong president of the Government Service Insurance System seems to be on a losing legal streak.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange both publicly rebuffed the Cebuano lawyer for his threat to return the GSIS stake in PSE.

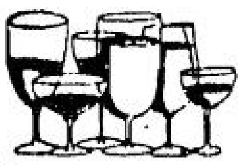
Now even his legal staff and the management of GSIS Family Bank have told Garcia his hard-line position against the Puyat estate claim on the bank is legally untenable. As if that was not enough, even the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel agreed with the GSIS Family Bank position, a de facto rebuff on Garcia.

Sometime in the early '80s, the family of former Senate President Gil Puyat borrowed a little over P5.2 million from Royal Savings Bank, now GSIS Family Bank, using the Puyats' Manila Bank shares as collateral.

To make a long story short, because of the banking mess and the two changes of ownership before GSIS became the controlling shareholder, GSIS Family Bank failed to collect on the Puyat loan within the prescribed period. Worse, the thrift bank not only failed to foreclose on the pledged Manila Bank shares, the crucial loan

COCKTALES/ B6

COCKTALES



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SALARIES, CBA and Work-Life SURVEYS

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines has released the results of its Labor Market Information Service Projects – Corporate Compensation Survey 2004, Collective Bargaining Agreements Survey and, Work Life Case Studies. The first publication covers salary ranges and benefits of executives and rank-and-file employees in local and multinational firms. The second presents an analysis of CBA economic and political provisions of unionized firms, The third publication, a joint project with the Ayala Foundation, features corporate programs on work-life balance of selected companies. To avail of copies, please contact ECoP Research at 8971329 or 8904845.

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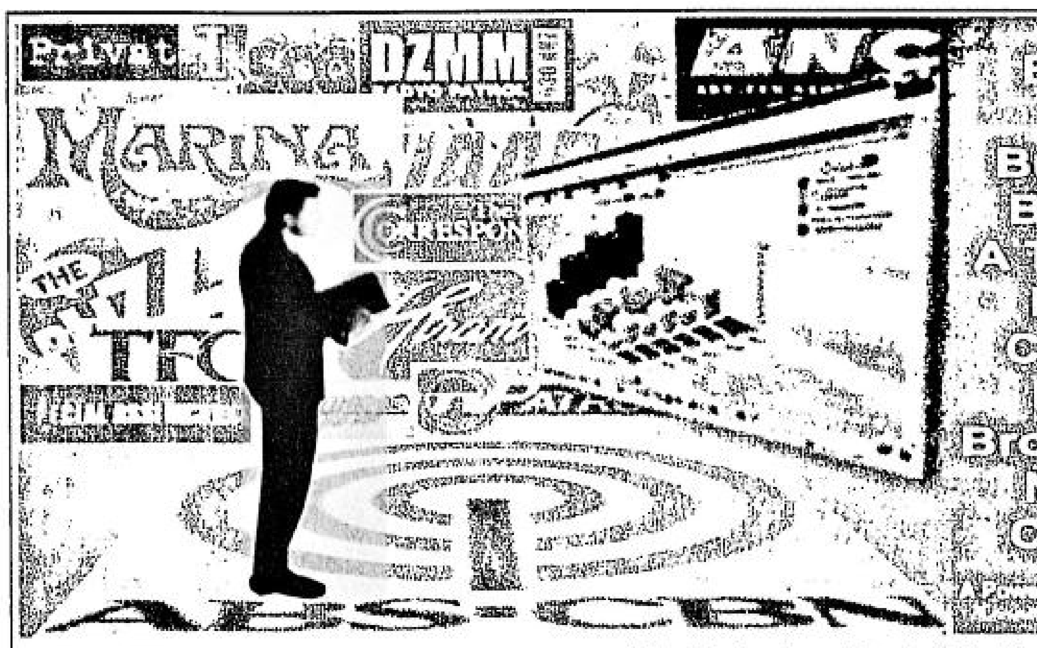

Episode Level Budgeting Becomes A TV Reality For The Country's Largest Broadcasting Network Company

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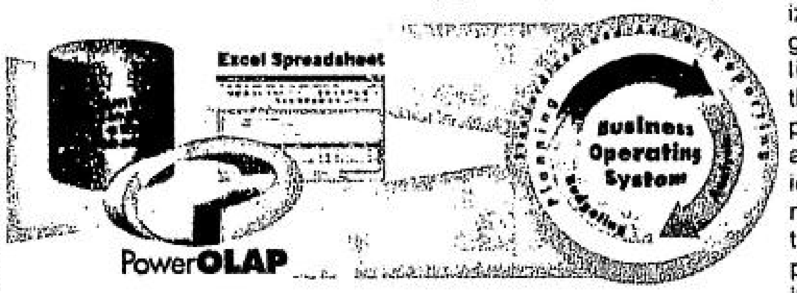
The Challenge

Over the past few years ABS-CBN attempted different solutions to meet its tight deadlines and reach an "episode-level budgeting," but all fell far short of the company's goal: "From customization to implementation of a packaged module that goes together with our previous ERP system, all initiatives to implement an effective and efficient budget process to drive the corporate visions proved to be complicated," Mr. Estrellado recalls. Like so many firms in the same predicament, their default choice very often was to work in an environment, with all the consequent difficulties of proliferating and impossible-to-maintain linked spreadsheets.



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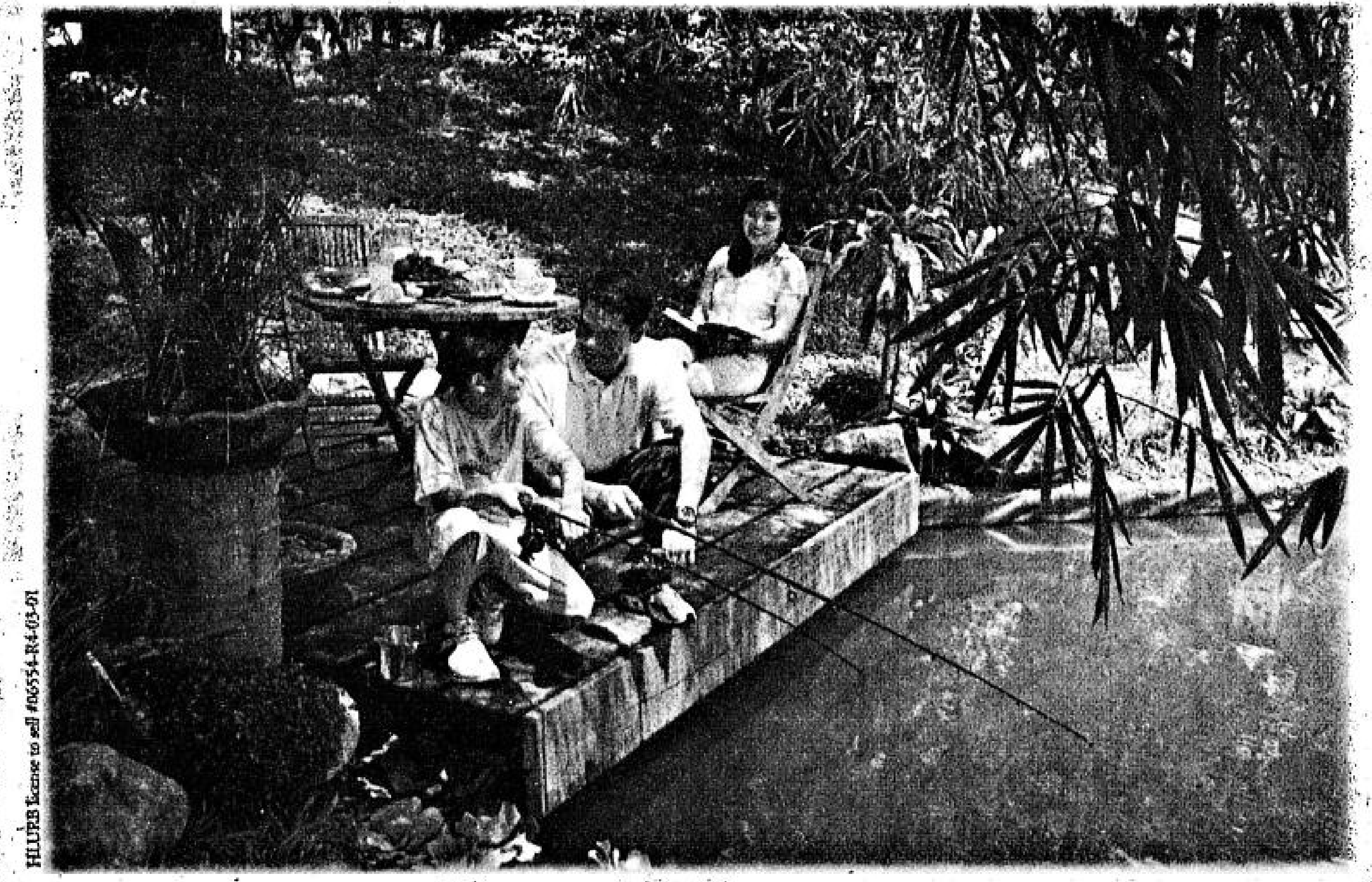
Future Knowledge ... Today

PowerOLAP® revealed another dimension of its power–the ability to generate reports and analysis pulled from different sources. PowerOLAP® adapts data and structure from SAP® allowing users to view and analyze the consolidated financial operations of ABS-CBN's enterprise-wide operations in a matter of minutes ! "We recently automated the consolidation process involving the elimination of inter-company transactions. Because we can clearly see where we can improve we will revisit and fine-tune budget assumptions used to facilitate budget reviews in the succeeding years." said Mr. Estrellado. ABS-CBN has succeeded in working in the "Service of the Filipino", as their motto affirms; in their view PowerOLAP® is doing its part very ably to contribute to that worthy goal.

All trade names referenced herein are either trademarks or registred trademarks of their respective companies

Family fun shouldn't be confined to the mall.



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Vietnam to triple vehicle output by '05

HANOI—Communist Vietnam aims to triple automobile output in 2005 to 120,000 vehicles from 2003 as part of a government plan to boost the transportation sector.

The Southeast Asian country, where only 41,000 vehicles were assembled last year, has car and truck assembling plants operated by 11 foreign auto makers, including Toyota Motor Corp. and General Motors Corp.

"The general target is to build an automobile industry so that it becomes capable of meeting the higher demand of local market and to join international markets," said Nguyen Xuan Chuan, chair of Vietnam Society of Automotive Engineers, a state body that advises the government on the sector.

Chuan, speaking at a conference on auto fuel in Hanoi on Saturday, also forecast auto production to reach nearly 240,000 units by 2010, more than half of which would be trucks, with an estimated 25 percent comprising passenger cars.

Chuan also said the state plans to boost the use of locally made components to 40 percent of vehicle content next year from an average of 10 percent at present, a move that has spurred protests among foreign car makers in the country. *Reuters*

Move seen to sustain volatile oil prices

NEW YORK—The energy industry is taking a relatively conservative approach to boosting output even though profits are booming amid tight supplies of oil and natural gas. If demand remains strong, this production discipline could help sustain high and volatile energy prices.

On Friday, oil futures rose to a record high because of the supply tension, while gasoline prices nationwide averaged $1.90 per gallon. Oil for September delivery surged $1.05 to close at $43.80 a barrel, surpassing the high of $42.90 set earlier in the week on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Analysts cite a number of reasons for the industry's cautious approach, including the possibility of a price collapse that would make more aggressive drilling now look foolish later on.

But another plausible explanation is that oil executives—like the leaders of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—have concluded that it is more profitable to err on the side of underproducing, as opposed to overproducing. *AP*

US economy on right track, says Bush

WASHINGTON—Recent figures show the US economy is turning around, according to President George W. Bush.

Bush on Saturday credited his administration's tax cuts for bringing the economy out of a slump.

In his weekly radio address, Bush sought to put a positive spin on the latest economic news. Figures released Friday showed an unexpectedly slow 3-percent annual rate of US economic growth in the second quarter as consumer spending braked. The figures also indicated the slowdown was temporary.

"This week we received encouraging reports that show our economy is gaining strength," Bush said. "Consumer confidence hit a two-year high in July.

"Existing home sales hit an all-time new record in June. The home ownership rate has hit a new all-time high. And since last summer, our economy has grown at a rate as fast as any in nearly 20 years.

"These gains in our economy have come at a time when Americans are benefiting from the full effects of tax relief."

Signs of persistent economic weakness would be a deep concern to Bush as he remains locked in a neck-and-neck race with Democratic challenger John Kerry ahead of the Nov. 2 presidential election.

Kerry, a senator from Massachusetts, has seized on economic weakness and the record deficits in the administration's budgets to argue that Bush has mismanaged the US economy.

The administration, which inherited a surplus from former President Bill Clinton in 2001, forecast a record $445-billion budget deficit in 2004, blaming the ongoing war on terrorism and repeated economic shocks, while adding that it was smaller than the $521-billion hole it predicted in February.

The shortfall for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 is deeper than the gap of $375 billion in 2003.

"The impact of our growing economy is being felt in Washington, where estimates of government deficits are shrinking," Bush said. "My administration now forecasts that the combined deficits in 2004 and 2005 will be about $100 billion less than previously expected, and because of my policy of strengthening the economy while enforcing spending discipline in Washington, we remain on pace to reduce the deficit by half in the next five years.

"These are hopeful signs and we must make sure our economy continues to gain momentum. Families are working hard to make ends meet, and these families depend on good policies in Washington that promote growth, new jobs and new opportunities." *AFP*

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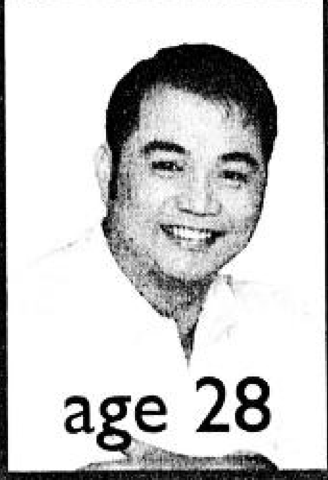

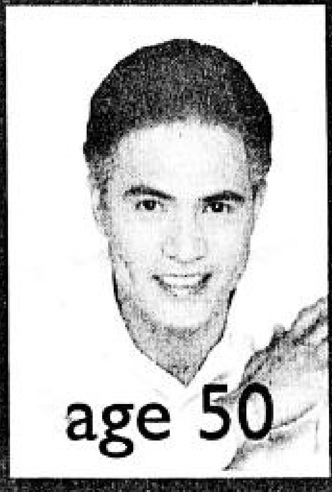

not bald.

Male Pattern Hair Loss (MPHL) is a medical condition that can be treated. MPHL is the most common form of pattern baldness, affecting about 5% of men by age 20 and about 50% by age 40[1]. Current studies suggest the prevalence of MPHL approaches 87% [1].

MPHL is believed to be caused by the activity of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp. Research indicates that by reducing the amount of DHT, further hair loss can be prevented, and in some men hair can be regrown[1]. Today, there is more than one way to treat MPHL. **Your doctor is the best source of information about MPHL treatment.**

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* Patients who underwent EARLY PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT in a clinical study reported improvement with their appearance at 5 years, as well as decrease in hair loss and an increase in the amount of hair. (Eur J Dermatol 2002;12:38-49)

1. Libecco JF, Berg Feld WF Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004; 5 (9): 933-940

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July 23, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

1. **Name of Project** : **Procurement of Tapes and Cleaners**
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All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretarial, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **July 27, 2004**, upon payment of **non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos only (P500.00).**

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 9, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the 3/F, Executive Conference room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **August 20, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**, and followed by the opening of bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) post-qualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

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For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-55-47, 926-55-38 and 928-20-26 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until August 19, 2004.

(Sgd.) MILAGROS V. REGALADO
Assistant Commisioner-Legal Service
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(PDI – August 2, 2004)

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Customers, vendors, business partners and the public are hereby warned not to accept the above mentioned Provisional Receipts from any party or entity.

(PDI--Aug. 2, 2004)

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

RE: CHANGE OF BUSINESS NAME

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND PHILIPPINE CONTRACTOR'S ACCREDITATION BOARD (PCAB), A NOTICE IS HEREBY SERVED TO THE PUBLIC THAT **FRAE CONSTRUCTION** WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICE LOCATED AT **104 GOVERNOR ALVAREZ EXTENSION, TETUAN, ZAMBOANGA CITY, PHILIPPINES** HAS CHANGED ITS BUSINESS NAME FROM **FRAE CONSTRUCTION** TO **JAMARI CONSTRUCTION.**

FRANCIS RICHARD ENRIQUEZ
PROPRIETOR/MANAGER

(PDI - Aug. 2, 2004)

Imported Rice Augments Supply in Zamboanga City

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY in Zamboanga City has unloaded some 6,600 metric tons (MT) or 132,000 bags of Vietnam White Rice from foreign vessel MV Ha Tien. This is the fifth shipment of imported rice that arrived in the region totaling 625 bags since January of this year.

The rice importation of the agency aims to augment the supply of rice in the market especially during the traditional lean months of July to September.

As this developed NFA IX regional director Ernesto M. Macasinag has fielded employees on a daily basis under the Task Force Palengke Watch to monitor prices of imported rice sold in the market in the region.

The Palengke Watch program will ensure market availability and visibility of the good quality but relatively cheap government rice. It will also check the distribution of NFA rice in the market as against the rice withdrawn from the agency's warehouses.

The NFA continues to campaign for the compliance by retailers to the rules and regulations under the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP). Violators of PGSP regulations face various penalties including the cancellation of their permits to operate.

NFA rice is sold at P16.00 per kg for rice with 25 percent brokens and P18.00 per kg for rice with 15 percent brokens.

For more information on the agency's programs, the public may visit the NFA Office located in San Roque, Zamboanga City or call Tel. Nos. 985-1012 and 991-1828.

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Violeta Acuña Sarte

Passed away July 31, 2004.

Her bereaved children **Maria Elena**, **Hector**, and **Jaime Jr.**; son-in-law **Teodorico**; daughters-in-law **Nelia** and **Celestina**; her grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her home: Acuña Compound, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 5, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

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Message of Thanks

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Your kind thoughts and for everything else
That you have done to console us

Our Heartfelt Gratitude
from the family of

Luisa S. Muñoz (De Leon)

of Baguio City
who passed away on July 18, 2004
at the age of 91.

> **"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."**
>
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC) is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit Sealed Bids for the supply of "Labor and Materials for One year Contract for Janitorial Services and Maintenance of Passenger Terminal at Mactan International Airport". The Approved Budget for the Contract is P7,908,731.16.
2. To be registered, interested bidders must submit the following eligibility documents (in case of photocopied documents, the original must be presented):
   a. DTI/SEC Registration Certificate, whichever appropriate under the law
   b. Mayor's Permit, Municipal License
   c. Taxpayer's Identification Number/BIR Registration Certificate
   d. List of Clients for the last five (5) years
   e. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 calendar years stamped received by BIR or its duly accredited & authorized institution.
   f. Government Electronic Procurement System (GEPS) Certificate of Registration
3. Submission of Letter of Intent with Eligibility Documents will be on **August 3 to 13, 2004.** Distribution of Bid Documents will be on **August 19 to 23, 2004** at the BAC's Office from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P4,000.00
   Pre-Bid Conference : **August 26, 2004 @ 9:00 a.m.**
   Bid Opening : **September 7, 2004 @** 10:00 a.m. (closing 9:45 a.m.)
4. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone number 3402486 local or 2050/2051 or at telefax 341-4617
5. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184.
6. MCIAA reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, assume no obligations whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense of loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **VERONICA S. ORDOÑEZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 2 & 9, 2004)

NFA now capable of checking age of milled rice

THE National Food Authority now has the capability to accurately determine the age of milled rice it imports, a boon to the agency's quality rice program.

Incoming Secretary of Agriculture and incumbent NFA administrator Arthur C. Yap said that applying the technology developed by the agency's technology research department will help prevent the quality deterioration of the agency's stocks in its warehouses.

Yap noted the NFA has been facing the problem of accelerated deterioration of its imported stocks. This is inspite of the agency's policy not to accept imported rice aged four months at the time of importation. This indicates the necessity of developing the technology that can be used to determine the age of milled rice.

Milled rice has a maximum effective shelf life of nine months.

The NFA imports rice to augment local palay procurement for food security. Rice imports are timed to arrive before or during the lean months when the country's production of grains is almost nil. For 2004, the NFA has contracted a total of 850,000 metric tons, with 473,450 MT already in the country as of the second week of July.

In the technology developed by the agency's Technology Resource Development Department (TRDD), the pH value of grains was used to determine the age and freshness of milled rice, Yap cited. The pH value measures the acidity of a substance.

Yap noted that with the technology application, aside from being able to systematically pile the rice stocks based on the date of milling, the NFA can successfully apply the "first-in, first-out" policy for rice stocks in its rice distribution program.

This will give the consumers the assurance of buying only freshly milled and quality rice from the agency.

For comments, queries, suggestion and comments on the story, the public may send text messages through mobile number 0917-6210927.

BOHOL 1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol
Tel. (038) 508-0064-65 • Fax No. (038) 508-8095

INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 14

The BOHOL 1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO – 1) thru 5% reinvestment and construction fund from BOHECO 1 intends to procure various Electrical materials and equipment for Line rehabilitation and extension of Distribution lines under its coverage area.

LOT 1 – LINE HARDWARES: Anchore Rod, 5/8 x 7 feet 100; Bolt, Double arming bolt 5/8" x 20" 50; Bolt, Double Arming bolt, 5/8" x 22" 100; Bolt, Double upset 5/8" x 10" 150; Bolt, Double upset 5/8" x 10" 250; Bolt oval eye 5/8" x 14" 150; Bolt oval eye 5/8" x 18" 50; Bolt, carriage, 3/8" x 4-1/2" 250; Bolt, machine 1/2" x 6" 250; Bolt, machine 1/2" x 12" 200; Bolt, machine 1/2" x 14" 150; Bolt, machine 5/8" x 12" 200; Bolt, machine 5/8" x 16" 104; Brace cross arm steel 28" long 350; Brace cross arm steel 60 span - 18drops 150; Brace cross diagonal steel, 7ft. 100; Brace side arm, vertical steel, 50ft. 100; Bracket secondary angle 200; Clamp pole, CA type, 8" to 9" 70; Clamp pole, CA type, 5" to 7" 100; Clamp pole, CA type, 9" to 10" 70; Clamp pole, CA type, 10" to 11" 100; Clamp pole, CA type, 11" to 12" 50; Clamp hot line #6-4/0 ACSR 150; Clamp dead end strain #4-4/0 150; Clevis, secondary swinging 200; Connector compression, YPC2A8U 4000; Anchore shackle, 1/2", force steel, galv. 100; Armor rod, #10, 52" 9 set/set 560; Armor rod, #4/0, 30" 15set/set 500; Pin cross arm long chunk, 5/8" x 14 3/4" 610; Pin pole top, channel, 1" tread dia, 20" 150

LOT 2 –	**WIRES/CONDUCTORS**	
	Conductor, bare ACSR4/0	80,000
	Conductor, bare ACSR1/0	7,000
	Wire Ground, Al. Solid EC grade #4	4,000
	Wire Guy, Galv., steel 3/8" 7 strand	5,000
LOT 3 –	**INSULATORS LINE EQUIPMENT**	
	Insulator, Pin type, Porcelain, Ansi class 55-4 big	1,000
	Insulator spool 1-3/4" Ansi class 53-4	1,000
	Insulator Suspn 10x5-3/4 clevis type pyrex glass	150
	Insulator suspension 6" clevis type	250
LOT 4 –	**DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT**	
	Cutout and Ohio arrester combination, brand new	33
	15 kva	10
	25kva	14
	37.5kva	2
	50kva	7
LOT 5 –	**CROSSARMS**	
	Crossarm steel 75mm x 100mm x 2400mm	500

Opening of sealed Bid will be on August 25, 2004, 2:30 PM at BOHECO-1 at its main office (Board Room) in Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol. Said proposal would be open and read in the presence of bidders to their representative who choose to attend.

Interested bidders may obtain information and secure list of various electrical materials and other bidding documents from BOHECO 1 main office upon payment of non refundable fee of one thousand and two hundred pesos (1,200.00)

(Sgd.) **CARLOS B. ITABLE**
General Manager

(PDI-Aug. 2. 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. 2004-044

Ref. No.: PB-040622-LE0079 / PR No.: GSD-04-007512

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo), BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
   The abovementioned contractors should have the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.
   License : at least "Category B"
   Registration : at least "MEDIUM B"
2. Contract : **SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSCO-HEAD OFFICE (HO) WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE BUILDING.**
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, supplies, tools, equipment and other incidentals necessary for the **CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSCO-HO WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE BUILDING.**
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is *P15,000,904.00* from Internal Cash Generation of the TransCo.
4. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **August 02, 2004 up to August 16, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat, National Transmission Corporation, MMD, Ground Floor, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND Pesos** (P1,000.00) per copy.
5. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **17 of August, 2004, 8:00 AM to 5 PM** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. Opening of the Eligibility Envelope shall be on **August 18, 2004, 1:30 PM.** If the said date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Eligible bidders shall be notified on or before **September 03, 2004.**
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders from **September 06, 2004 to September 30, 2004** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FOUR THOUSAND Pesos (P4,000.00).**
7. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 17, 2004, 1:30 PM** at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at **1:30 pm on October 01, 2004** at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The technical proposal will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representative who choose to attend.
9. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act.
10. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – August 2, 2004)

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Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION OF HDPE LINERS FOR NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT THERMAL PONDS
EDC04-094

The Approved Budget is P2,799,688.61 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 60 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.M. Corcuera) starting July 30, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 19, 2004**, 10:00 a.m. at the Admin Office, PNOC-EDC, Northern Negros Geothermal Project, Brgy. Mailum, Bago City, Negros Occident. Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 p.m. of **September 21, 2004** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC - EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Zuellig Foundation Program for health leaders

THE ZUELLIG Foundation conceptualized a training series for government health managers to enhance their corporate management skills. This was seen as noteworthy contribution to the government's Health Sector Reform Agenda.

The Health Leadership and Management Program (HLMP) training series is about managing change and becoming a transformational leader. According to its executive director Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, "the Foundation wants to help the nation in developing health managers who are not just technical experts but are true community and society leaders as well."

The 2-year-old program initially had 108 fellows for its first module on "Actualizing Personal Potentials." Seventy qualified fellows proceeded to take the second module on "Managing Towards Organizational Efficiency."

The fellows claimed that the program encouraged them to "deliver their services with a heart" and "walk the extra mile". They found it effective because the fundamental course focused on personal change, which they found necessary before any transformation can be done in their work setting.

As a result, several graduates have reported that they were better in managing conflicts in the workplace, they have become more confident when engaging their stakeholders, and that they have become more assertive and productive health professionals.

Based on a validation study recently conducted, the staff of these health managers noted that there were positive effects in the area of teamwork, receptiveness to others, and sensitivity to the feelings of subordinates. Feedback from supervisors of the graduates indicated that there was improved relationship among the staff, and enhanced management skills of the program participants. On the other hand, colleagues took pride by recounting that health managers became more open to dialogue, and improved their management systems and organizing skills.

The Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization, was established in March 2001 to integrate the corporate social responsibility efforts of the Zuellig affiliates and subsidiaries, among which are, AIZ Information Services Philippines Inc, Accette Insurance Brokers Inc, Accette Life & Accident Insurance Broker Inc, FE Zuellig (M), Inc, Federal Phoenix Assurance Co Inc, Global Commercial Trading Corp, Heltgard Hygiene Systems Inc, Interphil Laboratories Inc, Mercator Securities Corp, Medilink Network Inc, Metro Drug Inc, Philippine Accident Managers Inc, The Zuellig Corp, ZCM Corp, Zeta Holdings & Management Corp, Zetamark Inc, and Zuellig Pharma Corp.

Global
Love note

PLDT GLOBAL LAUNCHES LOVE NOTES PREPAID CARDS

PLDT Global, the international arm of PLDT that sells prepaid phone cards in foreign markets, has already launched the Love Notes prepaid phone cards. The card features affordable call rates to the Philippines and other countries as well as copies of letters that Joe D'Mango gets from his Love Notes radio program. The card will be initially available in Hong Kong and United Kingdom but will soon be available in Singapore, Japan, Italy, United States and Canada. Shown are Joe D'Mango (2nd from left) together with PLDT Global officials (from left) Karin Ting, retail head, Enrique Yu, COO and GM, Caroline Henson-Tada, legal head.

ABC SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT WITH MANILABANK

The Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC) recently signed an agreement with Manilabank for a loan facility that will partially fund the network's expansion and modernization goals as it strengthens its bid for a more dominant role and a bigger share in the broadcast industry. Present during the contract signing held at Dream Bar in Ayala, Makati June 26 were (seated, from left) Manilabank EVP Rene V. Jazmines, ABC EVP and COO Reggie D. Galura, Manilabank chair Luis B. Puyat, ABC president and CEO Antonio O. Cojuangco, Manilabank president Benjamin J. Yambao, and Manilabank VP for trust department Nieva M. dela Cruz. Also present to witness the event were (standing, from left) Manilabank senior account assistant Shireen D. Medina, Manilabank senior manager Jocelyn A. Manga, Manilabank VP lawyer Clarence P. Guerrero, Manilabank directors Emilio A. Astom and Eric R. Tagle, and Bancommerce Investment Corp VP Rolando I. Gonzalez and AVP Rhogel S. Gandingco.

BAGUIO CITY

PAFCPIC WINS DTI NATIONAL SEARCH

The Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative (PAFCPIC) won 2 major awards (Family Welfare and Community Relations) in the Department of Trade and Industry's recently concluded DTI Pro-Active Award held in Baguio City. PAFCPIC representatives to the event were lawyer Joseph Patrick Britanico, cooperative secretary, Miraflor Estrella, human resources manager, Ma. Carlota Dormiendo, public relations officer and Herminio Leigen Jr, trainer.

Rediscover Manila Diamond Hotel

MANILA has been undergoing a transformation. Its once dark streets are lit. The hardly visited Intramuros now has people trooping into its exposition area where different regions hold month-long fairs and exhibits. Malate always was, and still is, very much the bohemian happening place where expats and locals alike party all night without having to worry about getting nabbed. During weekends, the breakwater and the entire length of Roxas Boulevard comes alive as the city's baywalk with its cafes, bars and restaurants offer fun casual dining.

Throughout these changes, Manila Diamond Hotel shines the way it has always shone the very first day it opened its doors to the public. The hotel is a silent witness to its beloved city's transformation. Retaining its quiet elegance and stately presence, the hotel remains to be the oasis of choice for people seeking the quieter kind of creature comforts.

There are no overbearing doormen as there are no overbearing bellboys. As soon as one checks in, mild-mannered staff silently guides one to well-appointed rooms. A favorite among the more discriminating set are the Executive Suites, where subtle opulence is complemented by a breathtaking view of sea and sky. The well-appointed suites do not overwhelm nor does it lack for anything. It affords you an inner world where you relax your grip and go into a relaxed state of being. Where huge windows look out into the peace and quiet of the seascape and the hustle and bustle of the city of Manila.

Downstairs, one can pleasurably dine at Yurakuen, the Manila Diamond Hotel's Japanese restaurant tucked in the quieter corner of the hotel. Yurakuen is Japanese dining at its most authentic best-no fuss, no-frill Japanese cuisine, spare yet so rich to the senses. The same is said of the Tea Lounge where freshly brewed coffee and tea are served on exquisite china and with heavenly cakes and pastries are baked fresh everyday. For the more robust eater, Palm Court Café is an all-day casual dining facility, an oasis where one can feast on sumptuous buffet or choose a favorite dish from its wide array of a la carte offerings. If al fresco dining is on the agenda, the Poolside Bar and Barbecue offers surf and turf cuisine. Dine on grilled specialties amidst lush greens and the soothing sound of the waterfalls.

The 27th floor of the Manila Diamond Hotel is the place to be for an evening of wining and dining. Lording it over the top floor is the Sky Lounge. Its ceiling is a fiber-optic lighting composition of a breathtaking starry night that transports you onto higher grounds while live music wafts through the air. For a more quiet and romantic ambience, Restaurant Le Bellevue, with its unrivalled view of the Manila Bay, can melt any woman's heart or impress a man. Dine on Euro-Continental cuisine and choose from among the variety of wine and champagne to cap a perfect fine dining experience.

The day after will find you getting revved up and being pampered at the Diamond Spa. Choose from among the state-of-the-art gym equipment or the well-tended tennis court to pump up your adrenalin. Indulge in therapeutic and aromatherapy massage, the Jacuzzi or the sauna to cool you down before heading up the Executive Club, a quiet floor reserved for your weekday mornings where breakfast can be served and e-mails composed, faxes sent with the help of a highly trained business staff. And if one chooses to enjoy the privacy of his suite, the Manila Diamond Hotel's room service can be counted on for efficiency to set your day in the right direction.

ProductFiles

Aficionado's 40 fragrances

AFICIONADO, the popular brand line of trendy eau de toilette fragrances from Germany, now has more unique scents inspired by the latest designer perfumes, ranging from light, floral compositions to strong, woody blends. With over 40 different fragrances now available for both men and women, you can now find out which scent suits your lifestyle.

"Each scent is made of select essences and extracts that make Aficionado the alternative perfume of choice," says Joel S. Cruz, president and CEO of Central Affirmative Co Inc. (Caci), the company behind Aficionado. Awarded the top perfume brand of 2003 by local consumer groups, one of its successful fragrances is Hunks by Aficionado, inspired by the local boy group The Hunks.

It's incomparably low price, lasting fragrance, and unique versions of imported and known brands such as Hugo Boss, Polo Sport and Ralph Lauren make it popular with today's teeners. It's now a sponsor of the youth-oriented Digital LG Challenge on the GMA Network.

Aficionado now has over 72 outlets nationwide located in leading shopping malls in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Batangas, Baguio, Nueva Ecija, Bicol, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Pampanga, and Iloilo.

ATHEROTHROMBOSIS

The dreaded link

FOR PEOPLE who smoke, have high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure and diabetes, death and disability are likely to come in threes-heart attack, stroke or peripheral arterial disease (PAD). These life-threatening conditions have one thing in common: They are caused by atherothrombosis.

Atherothrombosis occurs when a blood clot forms on fatty deposits in the wall of a blood vessel. The formation of a blood clot is called thrombosis and the fatty deposit in the blood vessel is often referred to as an atheroma.

The rupture of plaques, and the subsequent development of a clot, can cause partial or complete blockage of an artery in the various parts of the body. When a vessel in the heart is partially or completely blocked by a clot, the result can be a heart attack.

The same process can cause a stroke or brain attack. This process can also lead to reduction or blockage of blood flow in the arteries of the legs-a condition known as peripheral arterial disease, a significant risk factor for heart attack or stroke.

Atherothrombosis is responsible for more than 28 percent of deaths worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. In Asia, 4.5 million deaths in 2001 were attributed to atherothrombosis. In the Philippines, the prevalence of atherothrombosis is unknown, but heart attack and stroke have become the number one causes of death, accounting for more than 25 percent of all deaths in the country.

Smoking cessation, weight loss, and control of diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia are essential in preventing a stroke or heart attack. However, since lifestyle modifications alone are not enough, they will have to be combined with drug therapy.

It is necessary to reduce cardiovascular and cerebrovascular risks in all these patients antiplatelet therapy. Currently available antiplatelet agents include aspirin and clopidogrel Plavix.

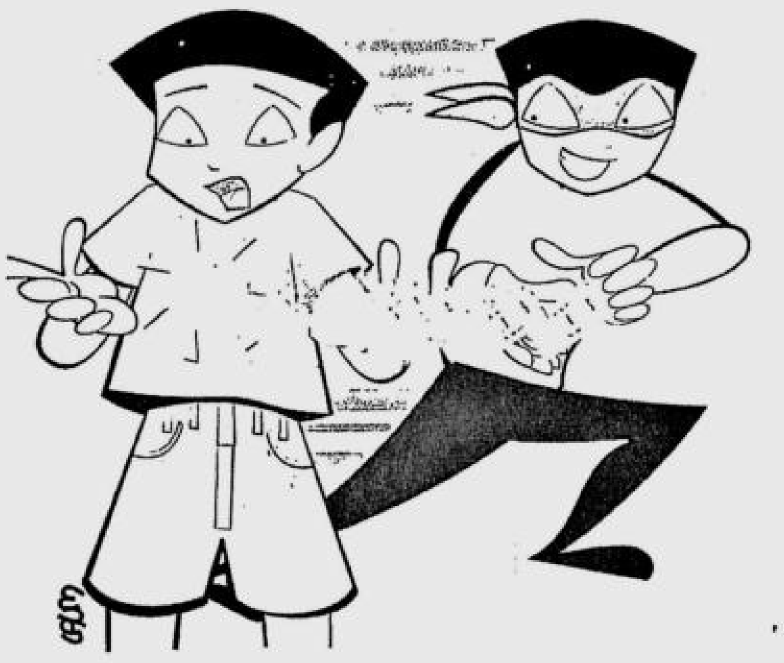
Clopidogrel has been shown to be effective in multiple clinical trials in both coronary and peripheral arterial disease. Currently, clopidogrel is the only antiplatelet agent that is US PDA approved for reduction of thrombotic events in patients with established PAD.

PRINCE LAUNCHES MORE BADMINTON RACQUETS

Sports Resources Inc (SRI) marketing manager Liza Enciso (2nd from left) presents to trade partners the new Prince MORE badminton racquet series in a launch held recently. The Prince MORE badminton racquets feature breakthrough designs and technology in racquet sports such as the patented Powerlock Construction that permanently fuses two molded racquet halves in one powerful frame; Direct Contact String Channel, which means 'no drilling', eliminates the need to drill holes and sensation-dulling plastic grommets as well. Assisting Enciso are (from left) SRI marketing assistant Kristine Abigan and sales coordinators Marie Robin and Mark John Quebral. Prince continues its commitment to innovation by coming up with state-of-the-art racquet technology to meet the requirements of badminton enthusiasts. Prince Tennis and Badminton Racquets, exclusively distributed in the Philippines by SRI, are now available at Toby's Sports, Chris Sports, Royal Sporting House, Manila Polo Club, JB Sports, Olympic Gold, Sports House, Planet Sports, CSI-Dagupan, Duty Free, and Crossings Department Store. For inquiries, call SRI at 671-9765 or 671-1540.

More PEP on page B2-4

NTC policy on cell phone theft only a stopgap measure, says advocate



By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

THE LATEST National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) policy aimed at minimizing mobile phone theft in the Philippines is only a stopgap measure to the problem, said the founder of a group advocating stronger consumer protection against cell phone theft.

Jun Lozada, founder of the "I Saved a Life Advocacy for National Guidance" (ISA LANG or "just one" in Filipino), said the new policy requiring all cellular phone dealers and repair shops to register with the NTC starting next month, is an ineffective measure to eliminate the thriving market for stolen cellular phones.

"Here's another case of government taking on the small guys," said Lozada.

The new NTC order would regulate activities of thousands of phone repair shops and hundreds of phone dealers in the Philippines, Lozada said.

Apparently, most stolen phones are sold back to the market through some phone repair shops.

Lozada, however, lauded the decision to address phone theft in the country. Still, he believed the NTC would soon have difficulty implementing this new measure.

He suggested that the NTC should instead regulate the three mobile phone operators, namely Smart Communications, Globe Telecom and Sun Cellular.

"We can eradicate phone theft by requiring the operators to list down all the active telephone numbers sold in the Philippines," he said.

Lozada pointed out that each mobile phone has a unique serial code called International Mobile Equipment Identifier (IMEI) that can be registered under a "whitelist."

The NTC is implementing a "blacklisting" system where stolen mobile phones are blocked on the basis of the 15-digit Mobile Equipment Identifier (IMEI) code.

Local phone repair shops, however, are able to change or reprogram the IMEI codes of stolen phones to elude the blacklisting.

Lozada stressed that the "whitelisting" system would help the NTC quickly identify stolen phones.

NTC officials and mobile phone operator executives were unavaliable for comment.

The new NTC regulation would also prohibit the sale of SIM (subscriber identification module) cards that were already blocked by the carriers.

Apart from the NTC registration, cellular phone repair shops will also be prohibited to operate unless they secure an accreditation from cell phone manufacturers or brands they intend to service.

NTC estimates that there are between 10,000 and 15,000 cellular phone dealers and between 5,000 and 10,000 cellular phone repair shops in the National Capital Region alone.

RP a laggard in IT security spending

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

A REPORT from the International Data Corp. revealed that the Philippines is among the slowest adopters of security systems in the Asia Pacific region, along with Indonesia and Thailand.

IDC has placed IT security spending in Asia in three categories—pioneer, emerging and laggard. Unfortunately, the Philippines falls in the last category despite efforts by the government to implement laws on IT security.

IDC stressed that countries in the lowest category still have considerable room in which they can improve their capabilities for technological development, communication infrastructure and regulatory framework setup.

Countries in the pioneer and emerging categories, on the other hand, have spent considerable financial investment and have established stable regulations to protect their networks.

Australia, New Zealand and South Korea are in the pioneer category while China, India, Singapore and Malaysia are in the emerging category.

The IDC report stated that growing security violations, security awareness and e-commerce activities are pushing the growth of IT security spending in the Asia Pacific region.

IDC predicts that the Asia Pacific IT security market will grow 22 percent annually from 2003 to 2008, almost twice the growth rate of the region's overall IT services market.

According to IDC, one of the key drivers for the increased perception of Internet security is wireless and mobile computing, where some vulnerabilities and the potential of mobile viruses were made known in the past.

Jessie Yu, IDC Asia-Pacific associate market analyst on security, said many companies realize that IT security is no longer a non-essential matter.

"Businesses should consider IT security as being strategic to their business as more consumers and suppliers are actively seeking to transact in a secured e-commerce environment," Yu said.

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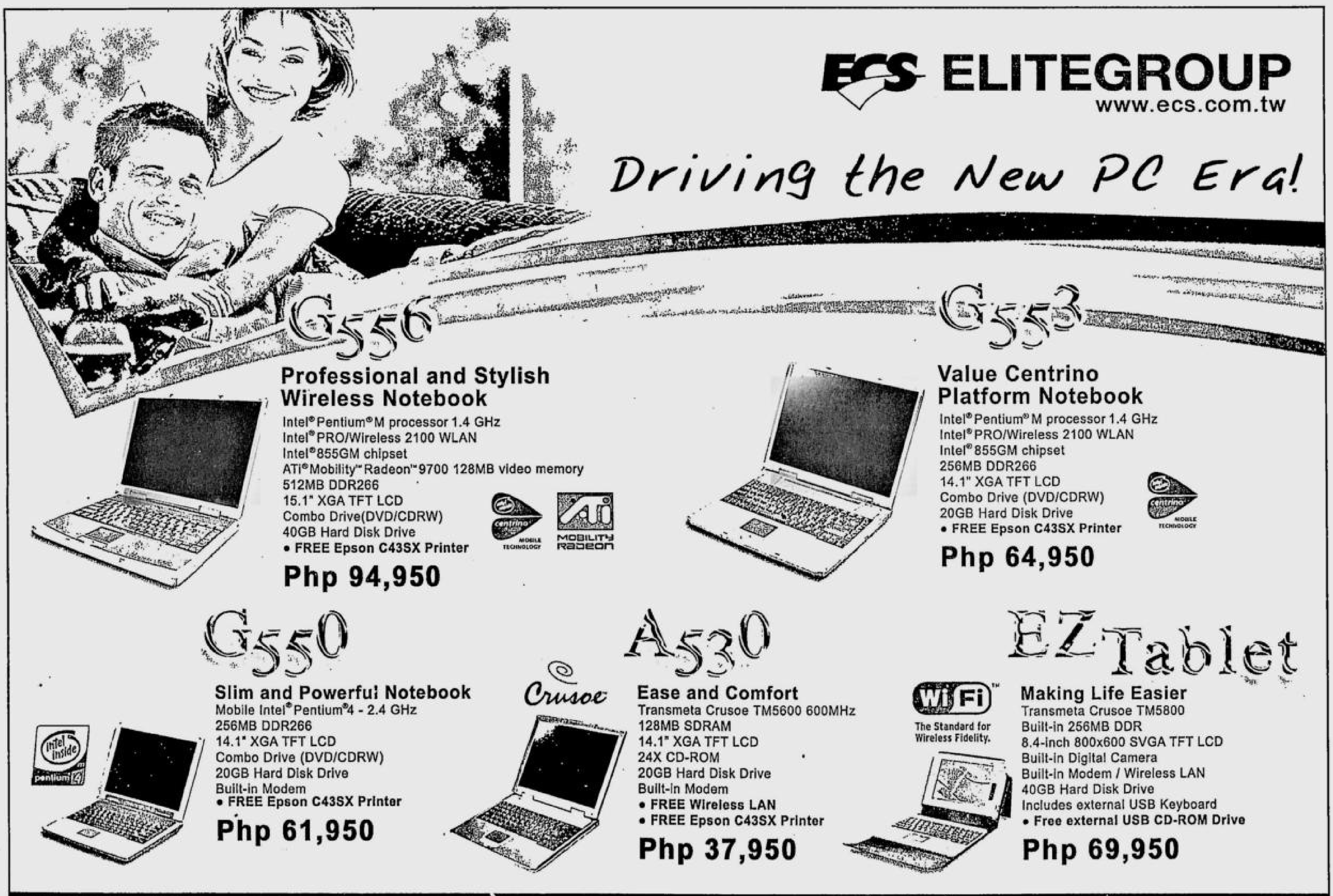
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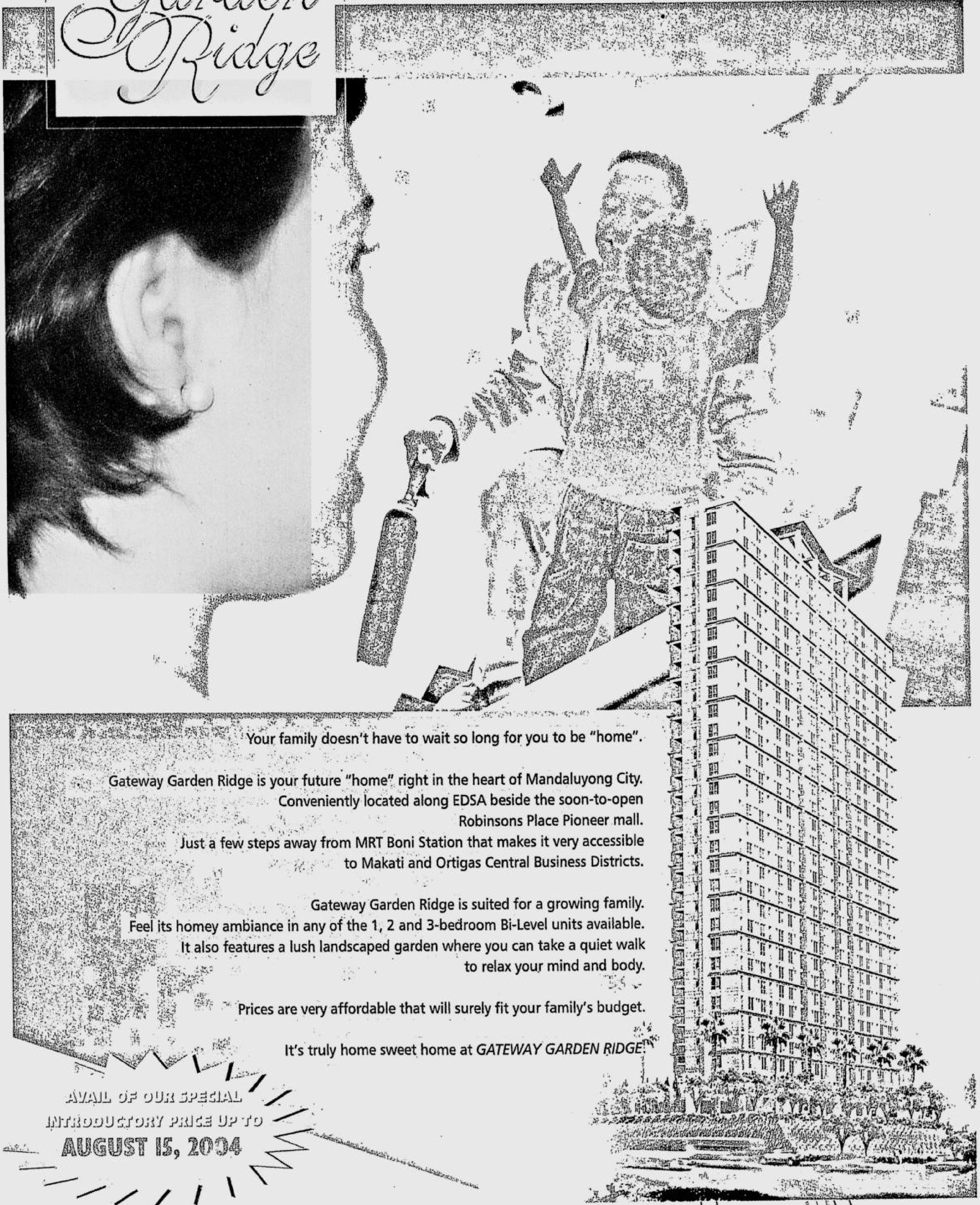

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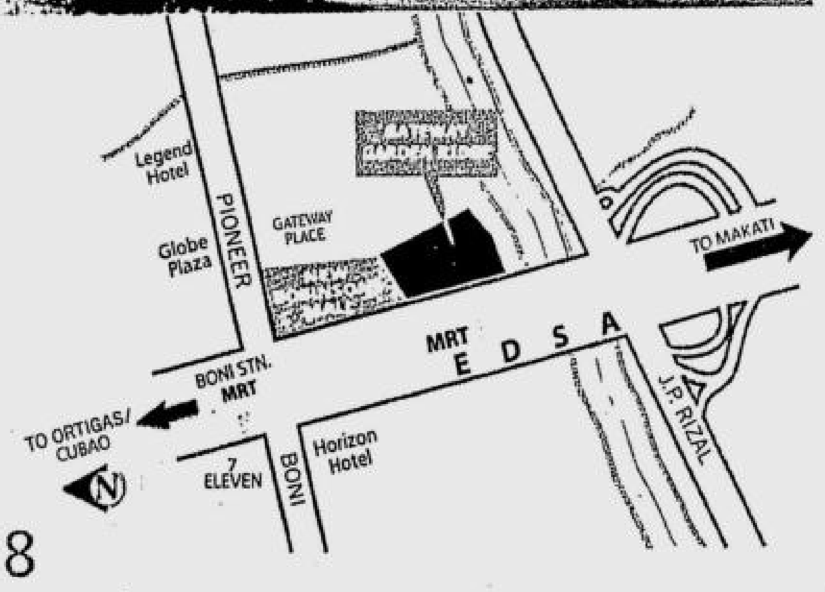
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SLIGHT LIFT TO AILING GARMENTS INDUSTRY

Creating something new from 'wagwag'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Professional designers and tailors may be worlds apart in the P168-billion Philippine garments industry.

But they all see the wagwag (second hand, bargain-priced clothes) phenomenon of Baguio as a disease that has infected their industry's chances at surviving global free trade.

The country's small and medium-scale clothes makers have already downsized due to their difficulty in sustaining expensive imported fabrics.

Narda Capuyan, the multi-awarded Filipino entrepreneur, said in an earlier interview that few local manufacturers have been able to supply the industry with locally produced textiles.

Capuyan has been trying to draw interest in a project to grow and develop homegrown mulberry and manufacture Filipino textile.

The country has enjoyed its P168-billion garment export revenues since 2000, but these have barely improved the plight of tailors and cottage-industry-level garment makers who make up the industry's 100,000-strong contractors, according to government records.

Recent reports indicated that the industry expects a downslide, because the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has encouraged the US to relinquish its quota systems, removing trade guarantees that helped Philippine export clothes business flourish in 40 years.

Radical group

However, a radical group of young designers is now advocating the use of wagwag, after they discovered a transitional textile source in the controversial second hand business.

Eros Goze and Dandilo Delima, both members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines, rummaged through their wagwag stock in Baguio, pulled out brand labels such as Gucci and Roberto Cavalli, and deconstructed these into new ready-to-wear garments that would be put out on the market this year.

WITH A dearth in cheap materials, designers use wagwag to come up with new garbs. EROS GOZE

"This is our revenge on the wagwag," says Delima, a 31-year-old stylist who invested in a small fashion house in Manila only to be confronted by a market that was interested only in wedding gowns.

"Designers and tailors have always had problems dealing with the dwindling supply of cheap fabrics and the onslaught of second hand clothes here. We lost clients who preferred second hand brand labels," he says.

The Department of Trade and Industry placed the net revenue of small wagwag bargain houses in Baguio at P1.2 million in 2002.

Street tailors meanwhile saw their income dry up to only P300,000 for the same year, according to a city government estimate.

Ingenious and legal

The DTI noted that the advocacy of Goze and Delima is "ingenious" because it is still legal under Philippine trade laws.

Wilfredo Clemente, DTI Cordillera counsel, says copyright and trade laws prohibit manufacturers from marketing their products using established brand labels.

"But if they strip the wagwag items of labels, use the fabrics for something else, then they produce something new," he says.

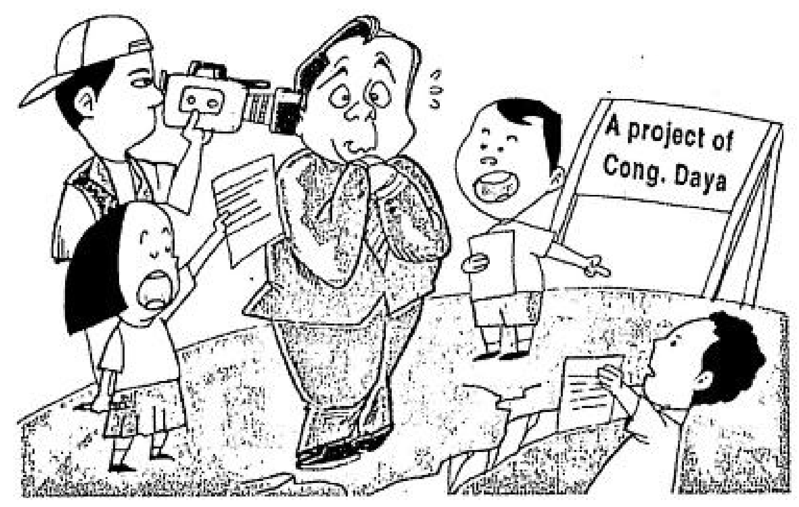
Civil laws also protect the designers. "Once the product is bought, a brand label can no longer dictate how their product is used. This is like the public response to Honda's protest when clients converted their vehicles into taxis. Honda no longer had any control over how their vehicle lines were being used in the Philippines," Clemente says.

Goze, a 30-year-old designer and photographer, initiated the *wagwag* project this year after returning from an abbreviated career as designer in Dubai.

He says fashion trends in the Middle East followed the trends in Europe and are sustained by them. "I never had problems working as a designer there," Goze says.

But he was encouraged to support a

SOMETHING/ B2-2


A project of Cong. Daya

Even kids can stop corruption in infrastructure

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

LAST week's article showed how ordinary folk fought corruption by monitoring their infrastructure. The Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance (CCAGG) has jailed crooked engineers and has prevented more graft. As active Namfrel members, the men and women of CCAGG inspire fear among sleazy politicians, in and out of election season. CCAGG is led by Pura Sumangil.

Children with checklists

Now, even the youth can get into the act. Look at the example of Bangalore, India: a survey by school children armed with checklists has probed the quality of its city roads.

The survey helped the citizens hold their public officials accountable. More importantly, it gave the kids their first taste of civic empowerment.

Running the road research was the Children's Movement for Civic Awareness (CMCA). It was conducted as part of its civic awareness summer camps held in April-May 2000. Fully 28 schools in the city joined the activity.

The CMCA was created in 2000 by two institutes, The Public Affairs Center and Swabhimana. They realized that nurturing civic values at an early age was less daunting than changing the attitudes of adults. So they set up special training for the youth: it swept lectures, quizzes, demonstration models, role-plays, field visits, and practicum work.

"Imparting civic knowledge, civic skills and civic dispositions form the core of civic education," says the CMCA.

Probing road quality

The children, aged 12 to 14 years old, were told that standing water ruined the roads. It had to be drained. The lecturers explained the critical factors: the drainage system, impediments to road safety, and the quality of the riding surface.

The children were then sent to examine 23 roads and to fill out their checklist. Some of the items covered were:

- Presence of side drains.
- Evenness of the surface of the footpath.
- Obstructions to pedestrians.
- Number of potholes
- Number of cracked areas
- Presence of signs or painted lines to indicate a road hump
- Unfilled or uncompacted diggings for electrical or telephone cables

The checklist included instructions like, "Look for spots where the opening of the shoulder drain is at a higher level then the road surface (i.e. water cannot freely flow to the drain)."

Making the headlines

The survey graphically captured the poor quality of the roads. The findings were presented by the children to the Bangalore municipal commissioner at a public hearing. The findings made headlines in the city's newspapers. The media value of the event was that mere youths were holding the public officials accountable.

The municipal commissioner ordered his officials to take immediate steps to upgrade the roads. And yes, citizens saw the improvements later on.

The impact of the kids' work did not end there. Once, the commissioner visited a district where he spoke with CMCA children. The

EVEN/ B2-2

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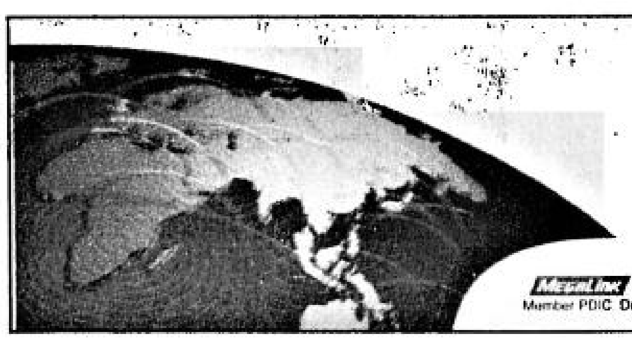

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How effective is your board's audit committee?

MAPping THE Future

Celso P. Vivas

(First of two parts)

BY NOW, many of you must have already read various articles about audit committee matters, like its functions, how it works, the basic qualifications of members and relationships with external and internal auditors.

However, despite all the advocacy work, the fact remains that the audit committee's effectivity as the board's watchdog on audit and financial matters falls short of stakeholders' expectations.

Too many of the members are inept, ill informed and financially illiterate.

Many directors know the problem facing them but are tight-lipped about it.

Low standards

The standards of corporate governance principles and practices adopted by audit committees in countries like Malaysia and Singapore have reached high levels.

The Philippines, on the other hand, still has a long way to go.

SEC Memorandum Circular 2 merely requires that the board members preferably have accounting and finance backgrounds.

One shall be an independent director and the other should have related audit experience.

Recently, the SEC issued another circular requiring the presence of at least two independent directors in the board.

On the other hand, the BSP requires under its Circular 283 that the audit committee be composed of independent board members—and also with the qualifying phrase—preferably with accounting and finance experience.

In other words, having a financial literacy and audit background is not mandatory.

Present directors and incoming ones should realize, however, that the audit committee slots are not for any Juan de la Cruz to take.

After all, architects or engineers are not appointed judges to handle legal cases. Doctors are not hired to build houses.

Let us review the basic functions of the audit committee under SEC and BSP circulars.

These functions are: (a) to provide oversight on the works of internal and external auditors and on senior management's activities in managing credit, market, operational and other risks, (b) to set up an internal audit department and monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control systems; and (c) to review quarterly, half-yearly and annual financial statements before submission to the board.

Demanding tasks

These tasks are so demanding to the point that, before critical decisions are made, members must dig deeply into their arsenal of applicable skills and related knowledge and experience.

Unfortunately, the effectiveness and integrity of our boards' audit committees leave much to be desired.

While many listed companies, banks and other financial institutions under SEC and BSP supervision may have already ensured that the qualification requirements of committee members comply with the respective circulars, what is being overlooked is the backgrounds and experiences of present directors.

There are many chairpersons and members of audit committees who do not possess audit and/or accounting expertise. Thus, they are not really suitable to sit on the committee.

What is financial literacy?

It actually relates to adequate understanding and appreciation of key accounting and financial reporting issues.

These include international accounting standards, adequacy of disclosures, liquidity, solvency and viability, related party transactions, financial risks, off-balance sheet transactions and financial statements limitations.

Let us face it, these issues could only be handled by highly experienced accountants.

Even some CPAs find it difficult to understand these issues. What more for the non-accounting directors?

Boards with an audit committee where not one member has a strong audit and accounting background may just be as bad as one having no committee at all.

Let me share some actual situations.

Situation 1. The CFO presented for review to the audit committee a draft of the 2003 annual financial statements.

There was an accompanying note requesting for the approval of a set of accounting entries to record the spin-off of their company's manufacturing operations.

Related fixed assets acquired at very low costs were re-appraised and the appraised values were used as basis for the issuance of shares by the subsidiary to the holding company.

The majority owner proposed, and the CFO agreed with, the recognition in the books of a huge amount of goodwill and profit on the spin-off transaction.

The CFO's note also included setting aside funds for payment of corresponding capital gains tax.

Relevant reading materials on International Accounting Standards (IASs) and BIR tax updates were also attached.

Review objectives: To ensure that the company's financial statements have been prepared within the framework of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the Philippines, provide assurances on adequacy of disclosures, assess if there are misstatements and make sure that all reporting issues are resolved properly.

Competencies required: Thorough knowledge of GAAP because research, analysis and interpretation have to be done.

Situation 2. The newly appointed external auditors presented their 2004 audit plan.

The audit plan included the following:

- Audit methodology
- Scope of work
- Key business risks—Linkage to audit
- 2004 accounting, SEC, BSP and tax developments and potential impact on financials
- Key audit issues, including possible audit report qualification on adequacy of provisioning
- Audit timetable
- Milestone dates for reporting to the audit committee

The committee was told that unless a significant loan receivable to a company was collected, the receivable balance should either be written off or fully provided for.

Either way, the 2004 results of operations would show a loss, the first time in the 25 years of the company.

The external auditors also proposed a 25-percent increase in audit fees over 2003.

Committee objectives: To ensure that the 2004 audit will be conducted in accordance with GAAS, evaluate the external auditors' capabilities to render nonconflicting services outside their audit scope, and decide whether to retain the external auditors' services.

Competencies required: Thorough knowledge and experiences in external audit examination.

Situation 3. The committee recently received a field report from the chief internal auditor detailing his group's audit findings on:

- Petty cash counts
- Inventory of paintings in the office
- Accountability of pre-paid phone cards
- Check of payroll disbursements
- Check of bank reconciliation statements
- Inventory of office forms

The report also included a request to expand the internal audit staff.

Committee objectives: To determine whether the internal auditors are up to the task of ensuring the effectiveness of risk management, operating control and governance processes and whether their planned activities are designed to add value to the organization.

Competencies required: Familiarity with the internal audit framework, knowledge of risk-based audit methodology and adeptness in internal auditing activities.

If we thoroughly review the objectives and needed competencies, you will note that the audit committee's tasks are so demanding such that commitment, training, skills and experiences are required from the members.

In short, the stakes are high, and wrong decisions by the audit committee could spell trouble for the company.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a member of the MAP committee on corporate governance. He is the chair of Picpa national committee on corporate governance and is the founder, vice chair and CEO of the Corporate Governance Institute of the Philippines (CGIP), Picpa's corporate governance arm. He chairs the AuditCom of a bank and is a member of its risk management committee. He also serves as an independent director of several listed companies and a member of their AuditComs. He is a retired SGV audit and risk consulting partner. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a former lecturer/facilitator of the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD). He has written and published in 2003 the first corporate governance handbook in the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Even kids can stop corruption in infrastructure

From page B2-1

members from the different schools reported to him on the absence and poor conditions of their toilets. The commissioner quickly ordered their renovation.

In 2001-2002, the CMCA children ran a survey on people's awareness of the environmental hazards caused by polythene bags. They interviewed 800 firms and 1,200 households. The survey got much media attention. It pushed the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to hurry up on enforcing the ban against polythene bags less than 20 microns thick.

Filipino schools and activist groups should learn from the example of the Bangalore children.

Lessons for Filipinos

One lesson is that monitoring infrastructure does not have to be complex. The indicators can be simple enough to be used by 12-year-olds.

For example, boy scouts and girl scouts can handle the work coordinated by Government Watch, an NGO based at the Ateneo Professional Schools at Rockwell, Makati. The group uncovers corruption by comparing infrastructure plans on paper (e.g. a 100-meter cemented farm-to-market road) to what was actually built (e.g. 80 meters of asphalt leading to the mayor's house).

Government Watch sends monitors with cameras and photocopies of contracts. The scouts can do the same in their respective provinces.

A second lesson is that the monitoring will draw media attention. The presentations are dramatic: after all, rarely do kids get the chance to speak truth to power. "The Emperor has no clothes" becomes "The Congressman cheated on our roads."

Finally, it is important to start the young on civic empowerment. "Students who are given early responsibility often develop a greater sense of responsibility later on in life," says the CMCA.

Comments to dennisarroyo@yahoo.com.

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Something ...

From page B2-1

"creative renaissance" for small-scale businesses here upon his arrival in 2002.

Goze and Delima were members of FiberWeb, a fashion initiative pioneered by Patis Tesoro, former top model Baboo Mondonedo and writer Laida Perez.

FiberWeb advocated the use and development of locally produced weaves, but interest in indigenous fabrics dwindled after five years of lobbying.

RA 9242

President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to revive this interest in February this year when she signed Republic Act No. 9242 requiring government employees to use indigenous tropical fabrics such as abaca, pineapple, and maguey fiber for their uniforms.

But little publicity accompanied this directive.

Capuyan says the industry's salvation rests in a homegrown fabric or textile industry, which has taken a backseat to an export-driven, foreign investor-dictated garments market.

Unless the government looks into local sources for textiles, the industry will remain an artificial export-earner because of the high cost of importing raw materials, she says.

But while the industry resolves this dilemma, Goze and Delima say small tailoring shops and T-shirt or blouse shops will have to rely on Baguio's foreign imports for some measure of deliverance.

THERE's a law requiring government employees to use indigenous fabrics for their uniforms. But nobody is following it. DANDILO DELIMA

You don't always have to think big at the start

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

YOU DON'T always have to think big-time when you're starting your business.

This was one of the messages of Dr. Vicki Belo in her talk to business and medical students of the University of Sto. Tomas, where she studied medicine, recently.

Belo rose from an unknown dermatologist with a small clinic to become the country's top dermatologic cosmetic surgeon who has built six clinics in 15 years.

"I think small. I don't think big and I think it's better than what I've seen. If you think big time you take it one step at a time. You don't hurry. Especially, don't be ambitious," Belo stated.

Belo cites her parents wanted to buy her a several rooms for her first clinic after finishing dermatology in Thailand but she told them since she was starting, she wanted a small clinic. She explained when you are just starting your practice, you have few patients. Few patients look okay in a small office. A big clinic with few people would look empty.

But she was quick to point there are people who are ambitious and who capitalized only on guts and still succeeded. Like her son Quark, a director whose first movie, "Gamitan" was a hit. Although his second movie Keka was a flop he did not mind because it was his masterpiece and it won all the Asian awards at the Los Angeles film festival.

Location

Belo says location is also a vital factor in building success. "I'm really into environment. What I don't like is for people to have to come to me. You have to be accessible to your customers. When I see my patients they are customers. I don't see them as cases. I see them as customers that I have to care for."

What she did was follow the Edsa route—she started with a clinic in Makati (Medical Plaza Makati), then Alabang Town Center for the market in the South; and in between she has one in Tektite Tower; Tomas Morato and in Greenhills.

Image

A third factor she cited as important is image. When she started she got a good-looking secretary and tapped a handsome doctor who was about to migrate to the US, to join her clinic.

"I think I knew already that appearances are very important so I got a secretary who was very sexy and who spoke English and Spanish."

Her strategy worked and she had a stream of patients coming because of the impression her good looking staff made enticing clients to try her new technology like liposuction.

From one patient whom she treated for free just to try her ware, she now has about 20,000.

Her big break came when she guested in Oh No It's Johnny to talk about her procedures. The "sosyal" members of Manila became her clients.

But she says her clients were mum about being her patient. At that time having your breasts augmented or getting a liposuction were not publicized. It was TV talk show host Boy Abunda who gave her a boost by introducing her to the world of show biz garnering her the label "Doctor to the Stars." That was over ten years ago. Today she has become a household name largely due to the many personalities who admit to being her patient.

But with her success, Belo admitted there were trade-offs. Many doctors criticized her for advertising her products and new technology. Many called her a non-doctor. Having been involved with show biz personalities also made her controversial.

BELO: You have a dream you really put everything behind it—hard work, passion. You need to believe in it and see it starting, because if it is really good and is meant for you, it will happen.

"I guess in times like this you just have to work hard even if there are bumps in the road, we can't let it stop. That's what I'm doing now. I'm just trying to still go through what I have to do."

Belo still has a dream to pursue—make the Philippines the "Beauty Capital of Asia." While many erroneously say she is not a doctor, Belo is recognized abroad and has been invited to give talks to international associations like the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgeon or the American Academy of Dermatologic Surgery on her procedures.

She says she invests her money by constantly studying new technology on skin care and cosmetic surgery. "You really have to invest, you have to put your money back. You cannot just enjoy your money. My thrust right now, or that of the Belo Medical Group is to make the Philippines the Beauty Capital of Asia. I've travelled around the world training for my clinic. I see we're really good doctors here, not just the Group but many others are good. We speak English well. We are a very caring society. My dream now is to promote the Philippines as a tourist spot, to buy new equipment and make new studies. All my doctors are required to do scientific studies and go abroad that's the way you get a professional name."

DR. VICKI G. Belo goes back to her alma mater to give a talk on her business success.

Life partners ...

From page B2-5

stresses, "Our products are not categorized as needs ... so we have to create the need. We should always think of ways on how to market creatively, on a continuous basis."

The problem of having to deal with product substitutes, like computer games, is a big challenge to the couple. Thus, Chito and Aida have to work twice as hard at broadening their product lines to cover a wider market base.

A problem that the couple foresees is the closing down of subcontractor-firms, especially the plastic manufacturers. Thus, they are compelled to widen networks to be able to sustain their sub-contracting needs.

Checklist for success

Chito and Aida swear by the rewards of going into business with one's spouse. There are sacrifices, yes, struggles, yes. "But a deeper and more harmonious relationship grows out of these," says Aida. In their case, both have grown to be less emotional and personal in their decision-making. They have been forced to think and decide rationally and objectively. "In the long run, what is good for the business will also be good for the spouse and family. This is what family business is all about," Chito says.

Chito and Aida recommend the following:

1. Plan your business.
2. Start small.
3. Choose your strategy wisely.
4. Use a brand name.
5. Keep abreast of developments.

They suggest, "Before becoming business partners, it would be good to experiment first with work-together arrangements before making it permanent. Find the pieces and see whether these fit in together.

(For comments on this article, e-mail info.isi@up.edu.ph.)

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Editor Aries Espinosa

BPI posts P3.5-B gain, marks 153rd anniversary

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) announced an increase in net income even as it celebrated its 153rd anniversary Aug. 1.

BPI registered a net income of P1.9 billion in the second quarter of 2004, a 46-percent increase over the same period last year's P1.3 billion. Total revenues grew by 21 percent to P5.7 billion primarily driven by a 30-percent increase in net income. This was due to wider net interest margins and higher asset base while non-interest income rose by a modest 7 percent. Operating expenses were slightly higher on account of last year's non-recurring input VAT.

First half 2004 net income reached P3.5 billion, 32 percent higher than the previous year's P2.6 billion on the back of higher revenues. Net interest income was up by 23 percent basically from improved spreads. Non-interest income was up by 3.1 percent with notable gains from the insurance business, rentals, asset management and miscellaneous income more than compensating for the decline in trading gains, income from asset sales and service charges.

Total resources as of end June was at P430 billion as both deposits and gross loans expanded by 4 percent to P337 and P213 billion, respectively. BPI's market capitalization stood at P97 billion as against book value of P54 billion.

On July 21, BPI signed an agreement with Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc for the sale of P8.6 billion in non-performing loans (NPLs). The Bank's NPL ratio based on BSP definition was at 5.9 percent.

BPI is the most awarded financial institution in the country. Just recently, FinanceAsia and EuroMoney, two prestigious financial magazines, named it the best bank in the country. Its clients likewise acknowledged the Bank as the Best Bank in cash management and foreign exchange in recent polls by Asia Money.

The Bank was established on Aug. 1, 1851, on the strength of a royal decree issued by the Spanish Crown. It was known then as El Banco Espanol Filipino de Isabel II. It acquired its present name during the American occupation.

Nippon Life Philippines
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NLIP CONTRACTS E-Z BUSINESS SOLUTIONS SERVICES

Nippon Life Insurance Company Philippines (NLIP) contracted the services of E-Z Business Solutions Inc, the only regional distributor of CIS Insurance Packages in the Asia Pacific, to implement the CIS Group System for NLIP group insurance division. Signing the contract are NLIP president and CEO, Yoshinobu Kimura and EZ president and CEO Vicky C. Lim. Witnessing, from left, are SVP corporate planning/director (NLIP) Timohito Kanno, with VP and COO (EZ) Lia D. Gamboa.

Tourism industry readies international event in Manila

THE TOURISM industry is preparing for this year's biggest international and domestic travel event in the country.

Popularly known as the Philippine Travel Mart (PTM), the event will be staged at the Megatrade Halls 1 and 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from Sept. 3 to 5.

The PTM brings together the various sectors of the tourism industry to showcase their destinations, products, services and other unique and highly saleable packages for the local and foreign travel markets.

The exhibitors include resorts and various destinations, hotels and restaurants, airlines, shipping lines, land transport firms, regional tourism offices, local government units, agri- and eco-tourism centers, convention facilities, souvenir manufacturers, shopping hubs, sports and entertainment establishments, and many other allied industries and suppliers.

Their exhibits are geared for the thousands of PTM visitors that include big foreign buyers of tourism packages.

"Now on its 15th year, PTM 2004 is designed to be the biggest so far since its first staging in 1989," Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) president Leo Picaso Jr revealed.

Picaso, as the incumbent Philtoa president, acts as overall chair of the 15th PTM.

Philtoa has been the official organizer of the PTM since 1994 when this prestigious annual event was turned over to the private sector by the Department of Tourism.

Aside from Picaso, constituting the 15th PTM's organizing committee are secretary general Celine F. Clemente, and deputy secretary generals John Paul Cabalza for travel fair, Yvonne Pascual for special events, Brenda Consul for business prospects, Roberto L. Castro Jr for sponsorship, and Joebert Cocjin for finance, with Emiliano Garchitorena, Liela Salgado and Felix Cristopher Alegre III as members of the advisory board.

According to Clemente, the 15th PTM's theme is "Wow... Philippines shining in Asia!"

"The theme reflects the main thrust of this year's PTM, which is to highlight the competitive edge of the Philippines in the Asian region, and thus contribute significantly to the DOT's target of bringing in 2.5 million to 3 million foreign tourists this year," Clemente said.

"At an average travel expense of $1,000 per foreign tourist, the 2.5 million arrivals could easily generate revenues of P2.5 billion that could create jobs and also help stabilize the peso against the dollar. This is especially so since tourism, as against exports, is practically of 98 percent local content," Clemente explained.

"And it (tourism) can substantially help the government attain its 10-point development agenda over the next six years in terms of jobs, enterprise and revenue generation, including poverty alleviation," Picaso added.

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Visit the Automatic Centre 0% Appliance Fest at the upper ground floor of SM Southmall in Las Piñas City for a wide selection of the best brands in home and office appliances at absolutely no interest.

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What are you waiting for? Don't miss your chance to grab the best deals in appliances. Visit the exhibit until Aug 18 and enjoy Automatic Centre's 0% Appliance Fest!

LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

Toyota Pasong Tamo, one of the country's largest and established Toyota dealerships, recently announced the availability of the Maxliner Bedliner systems for the Hi-Lux pick-up variant. Imported from Thailand and exclusively distributed by Thule/EGR Philippines, the Maxliner Bedliner systems are made from a high-quality mixture of fiberglass and plastic resin for durability and toughness. Maxliner is guaranteed to protect the paint finish from scratches and rust caused by the elements as it acts as a protective covering. Maxliner Bedliner is available as a dealer option at Toyota Pasong Tamo and Toyota Ortigas. It also fits most Japanese and American pick-ups. Shown during the formal opening of the Maxliner display at Toyota Pasong Tamo are (from left) Kim Go, accessories manager, Daio M. Candelaria, general manager of Toyota Pasong Tamo, and Francis Heslet, marketing manager, Thule/EGR Philippines. For inquiries, call 744-6367.

TeamAsia holds seminar on creating software products

STRATEGIC marketing and communications firm TeamAsia will conduct a seminar on creating software applications for the global market Aug. 10 at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Speaker Joey Gurango believes that more local companies should participate in the $600-billion software industry. "How can local companies successfully participate in the $600-billion software industry?" The seminar, which will focus on the key elements for creating products for the global software market, is designed for executives, managers and engineers in software development organizations and entrepreneurs interested in the software business. It will discuss successful global software products and the teams that produce them, applying best practices in software development to create global products, the best ways to get software products to target customers, and using target customer profiles to drive product development. Discussions will also include case studies of successful software development companies. For more information, visit www.teamasia.com or call 757-3500.

Samsung introduces enhanced version of display TV technology

SAMSUNG is giving digital devotees more reason to stay glued to their TV sets. Following a further 9 months of intensive research and development, the South Korean electronics giant has unveiled two new core patented features for its Digital Natural Image Engine (DNIe) technology.

Striving to provide consumers an even more perfect lifelike viewing experience, Samsung has incorporated a 6-time Density Enhancer to increase the number of input pixels to attain sharper detailed images, and an Image Optimizer to provide precise image quality fine-tuning to suit individual users.

"Nine months ago, Samsung impressed consumers by stretching technological and R&D boundaries that showed DNIe technology achieving unrivalled natural image quality through our initial core features like 3-D Motion and Color Optimizer, and Contrast and Detail Enhancement. With the new features, we have further surpassed equivalent technologies by other companies, and believe we are set to accelerate our position in the industry," says Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp president Sang Youl Eom.

Samsung's DNIe's technology currently holds over 110 patents. DNIe is a technology that ensures customers have the best high-definition quality on all display devices, from plasma displays, LCDs and Projection TVs to the most recently launched category of DLP TVs.

Eom adds, "With DNIe technology, Samsung will maintain the number one position in the global digital TV market. In Southeast Asia, we have seen phenomenal growth of almost 400 percent in plasma display sales following the launch of DNIe technology products such as the world's first 63" plasma display."

For mid-end Samsung flat-screen TVs from 21 to 29-inch, the company has also introduced DNIe Jr, a new incorporation of core DNIe features such as the Signal and Color Optimizer, and Contrast and Detail Enhancement.

THE FLAT-screen plasma TVs from Samsung with DNIe technology allow comfortable and entertaining viewing from any distance.

FROM left, Samsung sales manager Eric Ramos, RRS owners Ronal and Wilma Sarte, and Samsung senior sales manager Binggoy Mauricio

THINKING Tools Cebu owner Virgin Tan and Samsung president and CEO Sang Youl Eom.

SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG

FROM left, Quadtron general manager Jason Teh, Quadtron officer Burton Au, Samsung product manager Karen Lindy Gonzales, and MSI Digiland president Jimmy Go.

SAMSUNG executives (from left) marketing officer Chonhong Ng, regional product planning general manager Augustine Lim, visual display VP for sales and marketing Seung Woo Choi, and digital video system manager Henry Cho.

FROM left, Samsung dealers coordinator Gary Salenga and JNR Electronics owners Joel and Cathy Belo

POS Marketing owners Michael Chua and Jun Jun Ponce.

What is the proper way to give and receive business cards?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: WHAT is the proper way to give and receive business cards? I have heard so many variations that I am now confused. Is there a right way and a wrong way? I am a banker and I would definitely like to know how to do things the "proper way," especially something as simple as giving a business card. I know that a simple act such as exchanging business cards can already create an impression in people's minds. Please explain how we should properly exchange business cards.

A: Business etiquette is not as complicated as most people think. But, more often than not, the simple act of exchanging business cards has had so many do's and don'ts attached to it, that some people are now unsure about the proper way of exchanging business cards. The Japanese practice of holding each upper end tip of the business card with the thumb and forefinger while facing the card upward and bowing toward the recipient is viewed to be the proper way to present a business card. Most business people practice this, and minus the bowing, unless you are in Japan or presenting your business card to a Japanese, this is totally acceptable. However, the simpler way, and the internationally accepted way of presenting a calling card, is to first make sure that the card is facing upward with your name facing the recipient. This is done so that the recipient does not need to turn the card around to be able to read it. There is no need to hold both ends of the card with two hands, one end held with the thumb and forefinger on the center of the card without covering your name is sufficient. The important thing to remember is that your name should be face up toward the person to whom you are handing the card. It's that simple.

A commonly broken rule of etiquette that you should keep in mind is, when receiving a calling card you must read it. It is even better if you can make a comment such as, which is the best way to reach you (if there are several numbers written on the card), through your cellular number or through your secretary? That way, you can also determine whether or not this person wants to be called directly or would rather you go through his secretary for queries or appointments. You can also say something like, would it be okay if I send you my proposal over this e-mail address (if it is written in the card) or would you rather I send it to you by fax or mail? One comment after you have read the card is sufficient to show that you have actually read the card that was just presented to you.

You must also remember that while in conversation with the person who just presented you with his or her business card, you must not keep the card immediately upon receiving it or upon reading it. Keeping a business card immediately after it has been presented to you or while you are still conversing with the person is considered rude. For as long as you are in conversation with the person, the card should remain visible, face up, and only kept once the conversation has ended. This holds true whether you are at a cocktail party or at a person's office. If you are at a business lunch, keep it face up on the table from the time it is presented to you and when the food is served, then you can keep the business card.

Always keep your calling cards in a card case. This saves you the awkwardness of having to pull out your wallet and search for your card. For women, it saves you the hassle of digging into your bag for your wallet. As such, keep your card case in your pocket. It is small and thin and will not bulge and provides for easy access when you need it. Your card case can be made of leather or silver, stay away from gold or fabric covered card cases. Make sure that your card cases are conservative in design, as plain as possible, a designer logo or your name engraved at most. I would also advise the gentlemen to stick to the plain leather card cases as silver and gold plated card cases may be too loud. Women though have the option, again provided that it is simple and conservative.

As a last piece of advice, I also recommend that your business cards be simple and elegant. Keep the font legible, preferably in print. Try to avoid fancy cursive fonts as they are difficult to read and do not really give the impression of a professional image. Your name however can be of simple cursive font, while the rest of your details can be in print. Put only the numbers you wish to be called on, for instance, if you do not like to be called on your mobile phone outside office hours, do not print your mobile phone on your business card. Use only white, cream or beige paper, and only black ink. Again, colored cards do not send the right message, unless you are in the advertising industry, graphic design or an artist. Floral prints or cute icons also do not convey the image of professionalism, unless it has something to do with your business.

E-mail your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com. Names of senders will not be published.

Life partners ride business twists and turns

AIDA and Chito Madroño with children Jose Miguel, Margarita and Jose Emmanuel

By Christine S. Pardiñas
Contributor, UP ISSI

13, P.M. Enterprises, one of the leading manufacturers of educational toys and games in the country, was put up as an academic exercise.

All Pacito "Chito" Madroño wanted to do was to meet the walk-about requirement of his graduate program at the Asian Institute for Management (AIM).

When the product that he used for the exercise clicked, Chito left his government job to pursue a full-time career as an entrepreneur. Wife Aida joined him after a few years when it was clear another hand was needed to handle the growing business.

One product

It was a one-product beginning. While working at the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI), Chito saw the simple puzzle game called Chinese tangram for the first time when a colleague brought a set. It was a four-geometric piece set that one has to join together like a jigsaw puzzle.

Chito stumbled upon the puzzle game again in Singapore.

Improving on the design, material and packaging of tangram, he came up with his own puzzle and called it the Brain Twister. He thought it would be a good idea to reproduce and sell the product for his walk-about requirement. Brain Twister was introduced in the market via direct selling among relatives, friends and colleagues. It made waves in the market.

Life, business partners

There is no formal delineation of duties between the couple.

The Madroños affirm that there are many benefits to being a couple in business. It not only strengthens the union between husband and wife but also makes the job of managing a business lighter and easier. The spouses can meet and discuss business matters anywhere and anytime—during meal times, inside the car, or even on the way to the movies.

The constant interaction between spouses causes one to imbibe the good traits of the other. "I used to brood over problems, big or small. Chito does not. Gradually, I learned his way and experienced peace of mind," Aida muses.

For Chito and Aida, business never interfered with family affairs. They operate principally on a subcontracting arrangement leaving them plenty of time to fulfill their responsibilities as parents. Aida maintains, "I had more time for the children compared with most employed moms."

Innovation

After Brain Twister came "Word Factory." Released in 1982, the product is an innovation of "Boggle" by Parker Brothers. While Boggle has a 4x4 grid with 16 German-made wooden cubes, Word Factory has a 5x5 grid with 25 plastic cubes.

Their other products include the "Eureka Crossword Game Plus, Special Edition," the Madroño's version of the age-old scrabble game; the "Eureka Chess"; "Leaps 'n' Slips," a variation of the game "Snakes and Ladders"; and "Mouseville Run," an innovation of the game "Ludo," another popular board game.

Special to Aida is the "Kinder Kit," patterned after the Dutch product, "Mini Loco," a self-learning kit of progressive exercises in reading, language and mathematics—the three basic disciplines in early development of childhood learning experiences. It is the only product of its kind in the Philippine market.

Surviving the odds

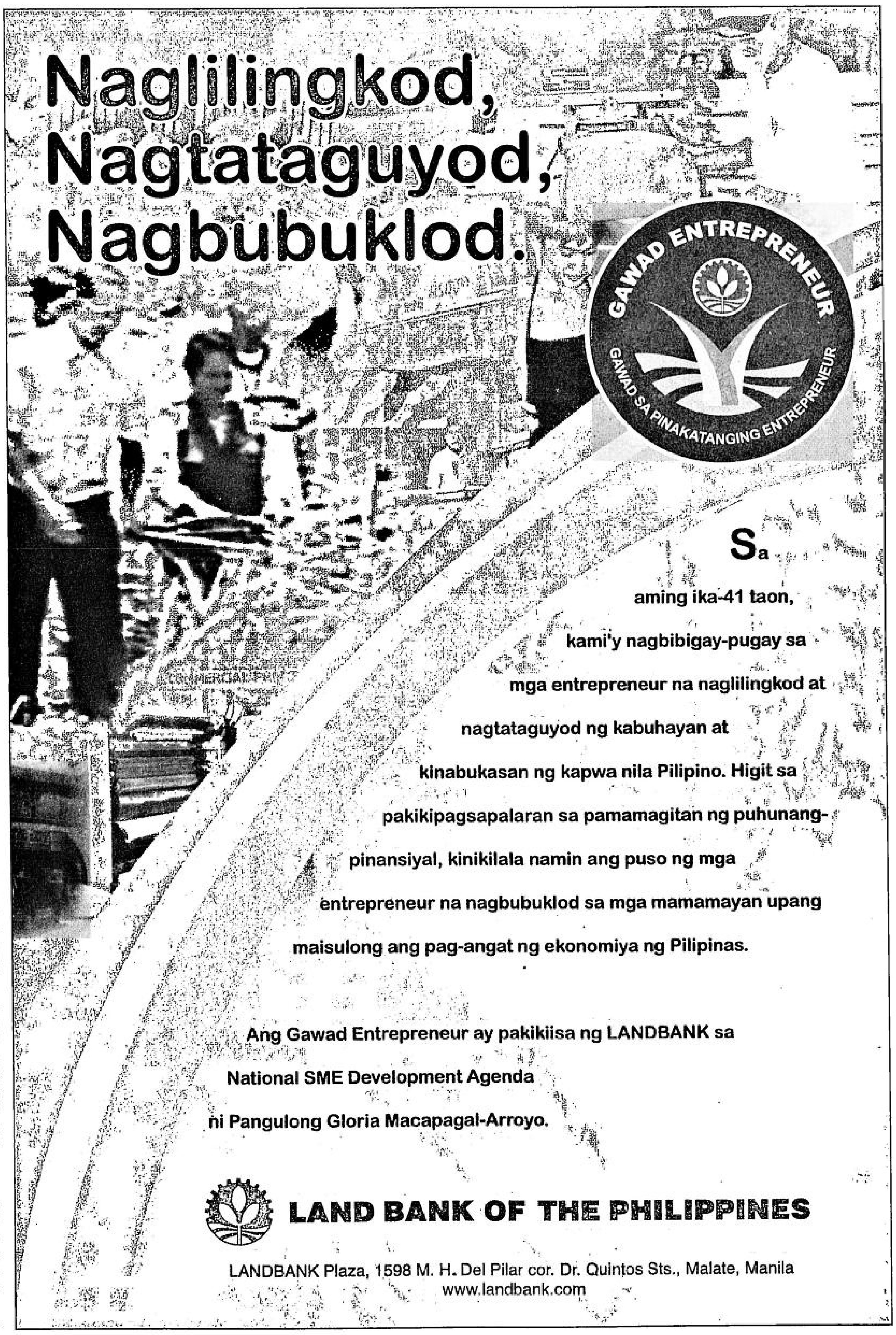
The company is still in the small- and medium-scale category "because we operate on a highly focused target market, with relatively higher margin and visibly higher service value," Chito reasons.

They try to continuously innovate and maintain uniqueness through product research and development, according to Aida. They participate in trade fairs to keep abreast of technological changes and industry trends.

In order to survive, the couple practices market niching and avoids competing in crowded markets. They try to maintain good relationships with their subcontractors, providing them with technical expertise, when necessary.

In their line of business, Aida

LIFE/ B2-3



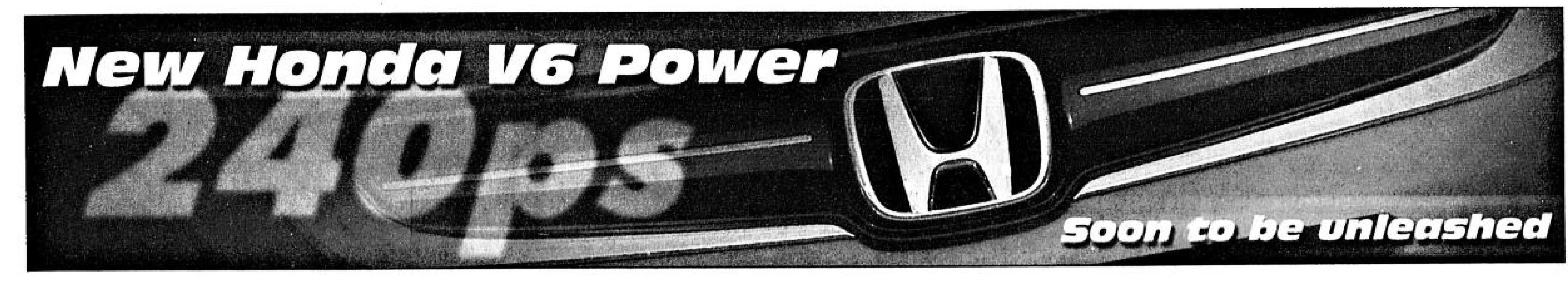
Naglilingkod,
Nagtataguyod,
Nagbubuklod.

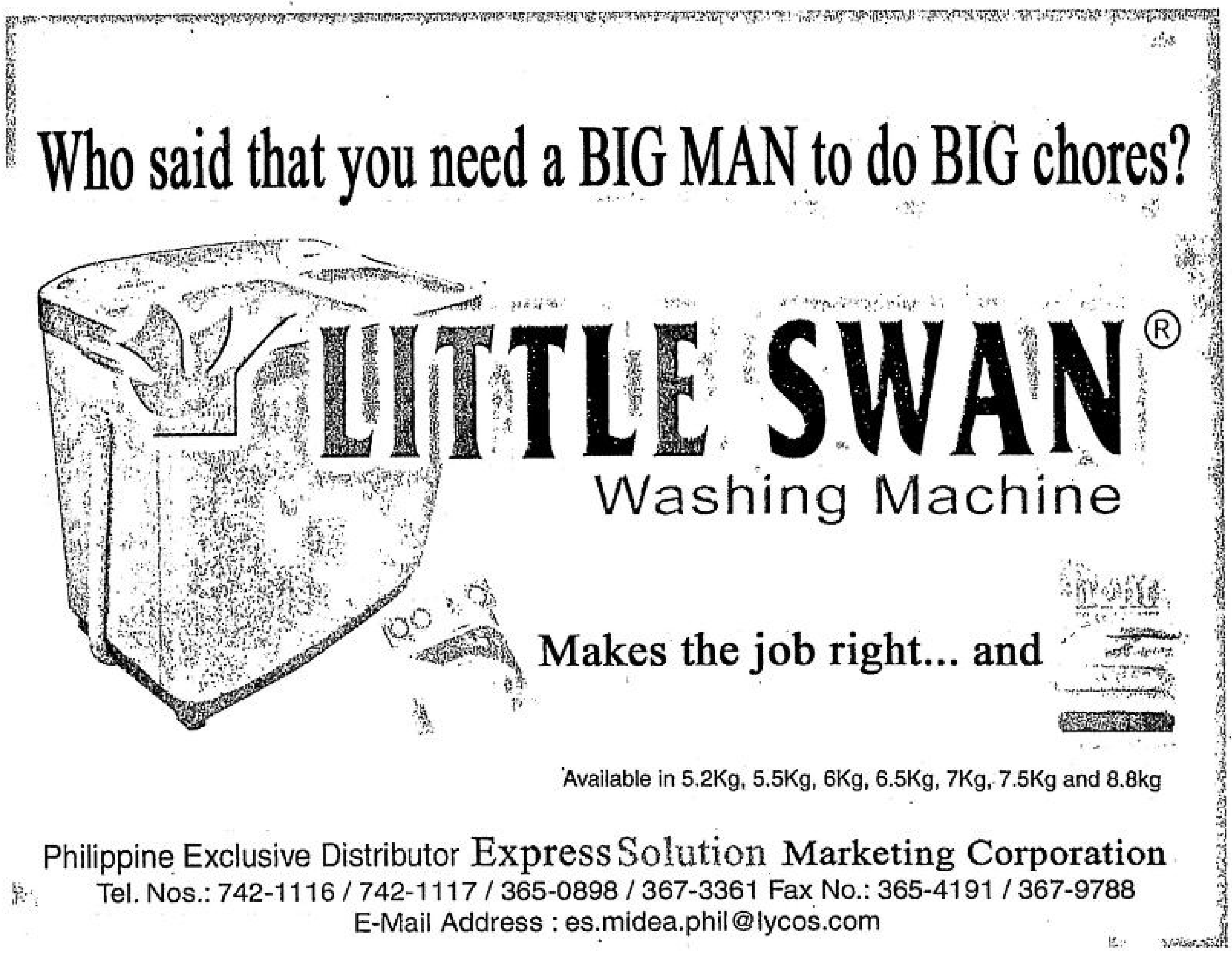
Sa aming ika-41 taon, kami'y nagbibigay-pugay sa mga entrepreneur na naglilingkod at nagtataguyod ng kabuhayan at kinabukasan ng kapwa nila Pilipino. Higit sa pakikipagsapalaran sa pamamagitan ng puhunang-pinansiyal, kinikilala namin ang puso ng mga entrepreneur na nagbubuklod sa mga mamamayan upang maisulong ang pag-angat ng ekonomiya ng Pilipinas.

Ang Gawad Entrepreneur ay pakikiisa ng LANDBANK sa National SME Development Agenda ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila
www.landbank.com





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EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

The Leader in Self-Financed and Personalized Installment Sales

NEW ESLA TO CELEBRATE ITS 37TH YEAR with an

Anniversary Midnight Sale

50% *on selected items*

By Joel V. Nigos

APPLIANCES are high-value items considered as necessity by some but a luxury to others. But whether necessity or luxury, appliances being big-ticket items, are the first to go on the budget list especially when life gets tough. Of course, the valued consumers would give priority to the family's basic needs. In turn, the appliance industry also gets affected. Manufacturers, suppliers as well as appliance dealers would later feel the pinch also.

Emilio S. Lim Appliances or Esla as an appliance dealer is not spared from these challenges brought about largely by the economic crunch. In order to keep pace and to continue to be competitive in the industry, Esla has to take action.

Jimmy Lim, GM of Esla, says that the changes that the company is undergoing right now ushers in the new Esla. This sits right well with the vision of the company as it enters its 37th year in the business.

SHOWN are (from left) Fr. Conti, Emilio S. Lim and Fr. Sal Pico

SHOWN are the Lim family (from left) Spencer, Ada, Nikki, Jinky, Jimmy, Emilio Jr., Emma and Albert.

Branch integration and rationalization

Part of these changes is its branch integration and the rationalization of its operations. Esla has merged some of its branches that are close together, transferred some to a bigger and a more strategic location, hired and rehired more qualified people to run the stores, and trained these people to be multi-skilled workers.

"On Aug. 2, we will be blessing our store in Antipolo to a much bigger location. Two months ago, we have relocated our Apalit and Baliuag stores stores to much bigger locations also. There's just a need for us to relocate especially when we believe the current store is too small to service the needs of the market," says Lim.

He adds that they have also merged the stores that are close together. "Like in San Pedro and Biñan, we closed the Biñan and kept San Pedro; we have Cainta and Marcos Highway, we closed the Cainta, we retained the Marcos Highway," Lim adds as he shares that they have also downsized the number of stores from 50 to 38.

Also as a cost-saving measure, Esla has laid off their drivers, stockers and collectors and in their place are contractors who will do the delivery. And since customers now will pay at the stores, rebates will be given to them as an incentive.

"So we're passing on whatever savings we have when we cut down our manpower cost to our customers," Lim emphasizes.

Esla's rationalization of its operations started during the end of last year. The company laid off all of its employees, rehired those who want to come back and retrained them. New and more qualified people were also hired and were trained to be multi-skilled workers. Lesser people now run the stores but can very well do the same job. From what used to be eight to 10 people running Esla's stores, now there are only three manning each outlet.

This is in line with Esla's vision of having a more efficient manpower. The desired changes would take some time, says Lim, but they are able to manage.

He adds that since the installment market is also not getting bigger and the competition posed by the credit cards, Esla has to continue its personalized service to its customers in which it is known for. "We're the only company where your account can be negotiated in case you have problems. You can't do that with credit cards, you have to pay late payment fees and other finance charges," says Lim.

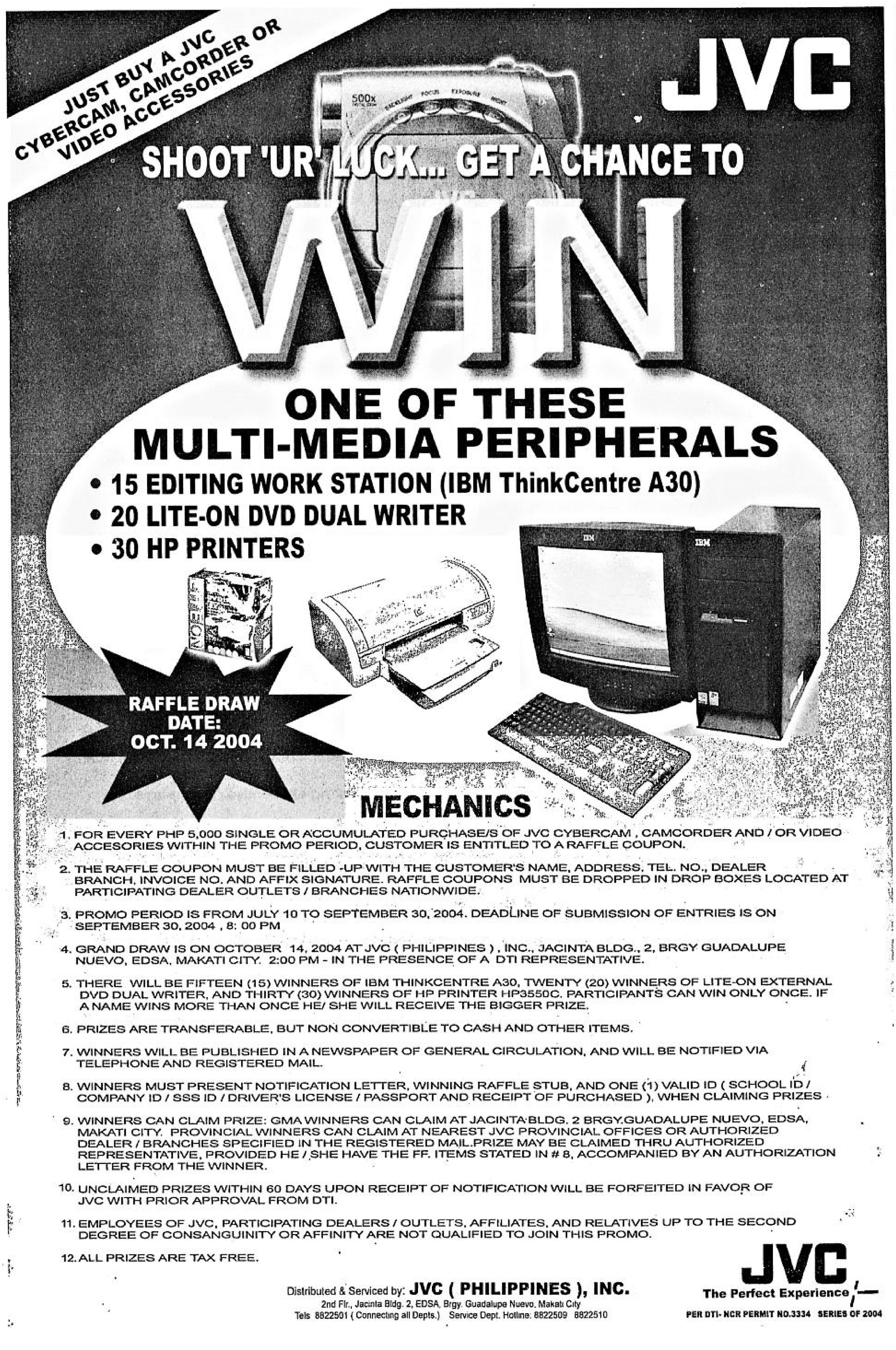
New programs

Given a lesser number of people, Esla will also try to be more professional in its service. An efficient ordering system, with the help of its suppliers, would be put in place so as not to keep too much inventory and have a better turnover of stocks. The training of new people also would continue. This has been going on for five months now.

Midnight sale

As part of the 37th anniversary celebrations of Esla, all of its branches will be open up to midnight on Aug. 2 for its "Midnight Sale" wherein appliances will be up

ESLA/ B2-7



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JVC

SHOOT 'UR' LUCK... GET A CHANCE TO

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ONE OF THESE MULTI-MEDIA PERIPHERALS

- 15 EDITING WORK STATION (IBM ThinkCentre A30)
- 20 LITE-ON DVD DUAL WRITER
- 30 HP PRINTERS

RAFFLE DRAW DATE: OCT. 14 2004

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1. FOR EVERY PHP 5,000 SINGLE OR ACCUMULATED PURCHASE/S OF JVC CYBERCAM , CAMCORDER AND / OR VIDEO ACCESORIES WITHIN THE PROMO PERIOD, CUSTOMER IS ENTITLED TO A RAFFLE COUPON.
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3. PROMO PERIOD IS FROM JULY 10 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2004. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IS ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 , 8: 00 PM
4. GRAND DRAW IS ON OCTOBER 14, 2004 AT JVC (PHILIPPINES) , INC., JACINTA BLDG., 2, BRGY GUADALUPE NUEVO, EDSA, MAKATI CITY. 2:00 PM - IN THE PRESENCE OF A DTI REPRESENTATIVE.
5. THERE WILL BE FIFTEEN (15) WINNERS OF IBM THINKCENTRE A30, TWENTY (20) WINNERS OF LITE-ON EXTERNAL DVD DUAL WRITER, AND THIRTY (30) WINNERS OF HP PRINTER HP3550C. PARTICIPANTS CAN WIN ONLY ONCE. IF A NAME WINS MORE THAN ONCE HE/ SHE WILL RECEIVE THE BIGGER PRIZE.
6. PRIZES ARE TRANSFERABLE, BUT NON CONVERTIBLE TO CASH AND OTHER ITEMS.
7. WINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION, AND WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA TELEPHONE AND REGISTERED MAIL.
8. WINNERS MUST PRESENT NOTIFICATION LETTER, WINNING RAFFLE STUB, AND ONE (1) VALID ID (SCHOOL ID / COMPANY ID / SSS ID / DRIVER'S LICENSE / PASSPORT AND RECEIPT OF PURCHASED), WHEN CLAIMING PRIZES
9. WINNERS CAN CLAIM PRIZE: GMA WINNERS CAN CLAIM AT JACINTA BLDG. 2 BRGY.GUADALUPE NUEVO, EDSA, MAKATI CITY. PROVINCIAL WINNERS CAN CLAIM AT NEAREST JVC PROVINCIAL OFFICES OR AUTHORIZED DEALER / BRANCHES SPECIFIED IN THE REGISTERED MAIL.PRIZE MAY BE CLAIMED THRU AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, PROVIDED HE / SHE HAVE THE FF. ITEMS STATED IN # 8, ACCOMPANIED BY AN AUTHORIZATION LETTER FROM THE WINNER.
10. UNCLAIMED PRIZES WITHIN 60 DAYS UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION WILL BE FORFEITED IN FAVOR OF JVC WITH PRIOR APPROVAL FROM DTI.
11. EMPLOYEES OF JVC, PARTICIPATING DEALERS / OUTLETS, AFFILIATES, AND RELATIVES UP TO THE SECOND DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO JOIN THIS PROMO.
12. ALL PRIZES ARE TAX FREE.

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The Perfect Experience
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New ESLA . . .

From page B2-6

for grabs at discounted prices. Premium items will also be given to all customers who will buy during the sale. On Aug. 3 to 4, the sale would continue on all branches but on normal store hours.

Says Jimmy, "We will be reducing our prices as 'pasasalamat' to our valued customers for our 37 years in the appliance business."

Esla's promotions

Customers can also benefit from the promotions geared toward Esla's various kinds of clients.

The "No Downpayment" promotion is for customers who do not have much money but is willing to pay on installment for a term. The "Combo Deal," on the other hand, is for buyers who have money but not enough to buy the appliance of his choice so he gives his money as downpayment and the balance will be settled via installment. The "Zero Interest" is for those who have much cash and is not willing to pay interest, the "Last Payment Free" is for clients who pay on time, and the "Last Two Payments Free" is for customers who refer and guarantee new clients. In addition, Esla also offers the "Extended Warranty Program," a tie-up with Philam, in which buyers can extend the warranty of their appliance of up to three years at a cost.

Beginnings

Esla started on the dream of Emilio Lim, Jimmy's father and from which the store was named, on making buying appliances easier for people. So he introduced the installment business which is something new during that time. It was a click to customers because they no longer need to come up with the whole amount to purchase appliances. It was also very easy for buyers to come up with money as payment for installment.

To come up with the needed capital, Emilio gathered friends to invest in the business. He put up one store every year, each a different company. The first five stores that were established served as Esla's pilot stores. These are Makati, Parañaque, Marikina, Cubao and Caloocan. When Jimmy took over, he expanded Esla's reach by venturing into branches. From the Makati branch came the stores in Laguna, Batangas and Lucena; from Parañaque, the Cavite towns; from Marikina, the Pasig areas and the Rizal towns; from Cubao, the Novaliches, Lagro and San Jose del Monte areas, and; from Caloocan, the Bulacan and the Pampanga areas.

ESLA BRANCHES

HEAD OFFICE: 8th Floor, Unit B, Act Tower, 135 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 894-2872 * Fax No. 894-1550, 894-3985

1. ALABANG-Upper Ground Floor, Right Wing, Metropolis Mall, South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City * 772-3780, 772-3815

2. ANTIPOLO-4 Circumferential Road, Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo, Rizal * 630-5642

3. APALIT-San Vicente crossing, Apalit, Pampanga * (045) 3026614

4. BALAGTAS--#367 McArthur Highway, Poblacion, Balagtas, Bulacan * (044) 693-3386/(044) 693-4298

5. BALANGA, BATAAN-Recar Commercial Complex Inc., J.P. Rizal, Zulueta St., Brgy. Poblacion, Balanga City, Bataan * (047) 237-1986, (047) 791-2554

6. CALAMBA-Unit 5 & 6, Sta. Cecilia Business Center II, National Highway, Parian, Calamba, Laguna * (049) 545-7787, (049) 545-5252

7. CALOOCAN-- # 124-130 Gen. San Miguel, Sangandaan, Caloocan City * 287-3477, 288-5512

8. CUBAO-Stall A2021, 3rd Level, Farmers Plaza, Cubao, Quezon City * 437-7881, 913-3060

9. DASMARIÑAS I--#11 Aguinaldo Highway, Palapala, Dasmariñas, Cavite * (046) 973-0498, (046) 852-0519

10. DASMARIÑAS II-Congressional Avenue, Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite (beside Dela Salle University) * (046) 850-2833, (046) 416-5426

11. DAU-Jumbo Jenra Supermarket, North Expressway cor. McArthur Highway, Dau, Mabalacat City, Pampanga * (045) 892-5180

12. FAIRVIEW I-Commonwealth Avenue, Fairview, Quezon City * 427-5845, 427-5514

13. GMA, CAVITE-Along Governor's Drive, General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite * (046) 972-0364, 890-2309

14. IMUS, CAVITE--#306 B. Aguinaldo Highway, Brgy. Palico, Imus, Cavite * (046) 471-7168

15. KALENTONG-878-880 Gen. Kalentong, Mandaluyong City * 534-5419 to 20

16. LAGRO, Q.C.-Unit 7 Lester Bldg., Quirino Highway, Lagro. Q.C. * 417-5618, 418-1791

17. LAS PIÑAS CITY--# 404 Real St., Talon, Las Piñas City * 802-4929

18. LIPA, BATANGAS-Claro M. Recto St. cor. T.M. Kalaw St., Lipa City, Batangas * (043) 756-5747, (043) 757-0978

19. LUCENA CITY-Sangalang Bldg., Juarez cor. Merchant St., Lucena City * (042) 373-7435

20. MARCOS HIGHWAY-Corner Felix Avenue, San Roque, Marcos Highway, Marikina City * 646-5205

21. MARIKINA I--#31 Sumulong Highway, Sto.Niño, Marikina City * 948-8510, 941-2943, 948-3786

22. MARIKINA II--#37 Sumulong Highway, Sto. Niño, Marikina City * 942-0885, 997-7391

23. MEYCAUAYAN-Maristel Bldg., McArthur Highway, Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan * (044) 935-3394, (044) 840-0391

24. NOVALICHES, BAESA--#347 AB&C Quirino Highway, Baesa, Novaliches, Quezon City *453-9249, 330-0164

25. NOVALICHES PROPER--#1035 Quirino Highway, Sta.Monica, Novaliches Proper, Quezon City * 930-0809, 936-3426

26. PARAÑAQUE, QUIRINO--#497 Quirino Avenue, San Dionisio, Parañaque City * 825-9152, 829-1507

27. PASIG I-Victoria Theater Bldg., Pasig Plaza Bonifacio, Dr. Sixto Avenue, Pasig City * 747-7466, 642-1676, 642-1663

28. PASIG II--#138 Caruncho Bldg., Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue, Pasig City * 641-5004, 747-3758

29. PLARIDEL-Banga St., Cagayan Valley Road, Poblacion, Plaridel, Bulacan * 299-8509, (044) 670-0327

30. PRITIL - #G10 Landwealth Mansio, Juan Luna St., corner Tayuman, Tondo, Manila

31. ROSARIO, CAVITE-National Highway, Bo. Tejeros, Rosario, Cavite (beside Emperor Plaza Mall, infront of EPZA) * (046) 438-0885, (046) 438-0886

32. SAMPALOC, ESPAÑA--#2282 España St., Samplaoc, Manila * 743-4924, 743-7014

NEW location Antipolo Branch: Circumferential Road, Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo, Rizal * 630-5642 (near Mercury Drug)

33. SAN JOSE DEL MONTE-Dalisay Bldg., # 200 Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan * (044) 691-5122, (044) 691-5196

34. SAN PABLO, LAGUNA-45 J.P. Rizal Avenue, Brgy. VII-A, San Pablo City, Laguna * (049) 561-1690, 561-1691

35. SAN PEDRO-AC I AGM Comm'l, National Highway, Nueva, San Pedro, Laguna * 847-9652, 520-1626

36. STA. MARIA-Francisco Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria, Bulacan * (044) 641-2225, (044) 641-3112

37. TANAY, RIZAL-Catapusan St., Plaza Aldea, Tanay, Rizal * 693-0326, 693-0327

38. TANAUAN--#95 A. Mabini Avenue, Tanauan, Batangas * (043) 778-3220, 778-3136

39. TAYTAY, RIZAL-Cor. B.A. Cruz and Rizal Avenue, Taytay, Rizal * 660-5365, 660-5611

40. CAINTA WAREHOUSE-Irish Lane, ESLA Urban Homes, Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Cainta, Rizal * 240-1825, 240-1826

37

Here's a Toast to

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

on its 37th Anniversary

When there was only a handful of appliance stores then, there was already the EMILIO S.LIM. Thirty seven years after, it remains a household name among Filipino consumers.

We, at the Concepcion Industries, are proud to have been its partner in bringing to the Filipinos appliances that are built to last and are in touch with tomorrow. And we look forward to many many more years of successful partnership with you.

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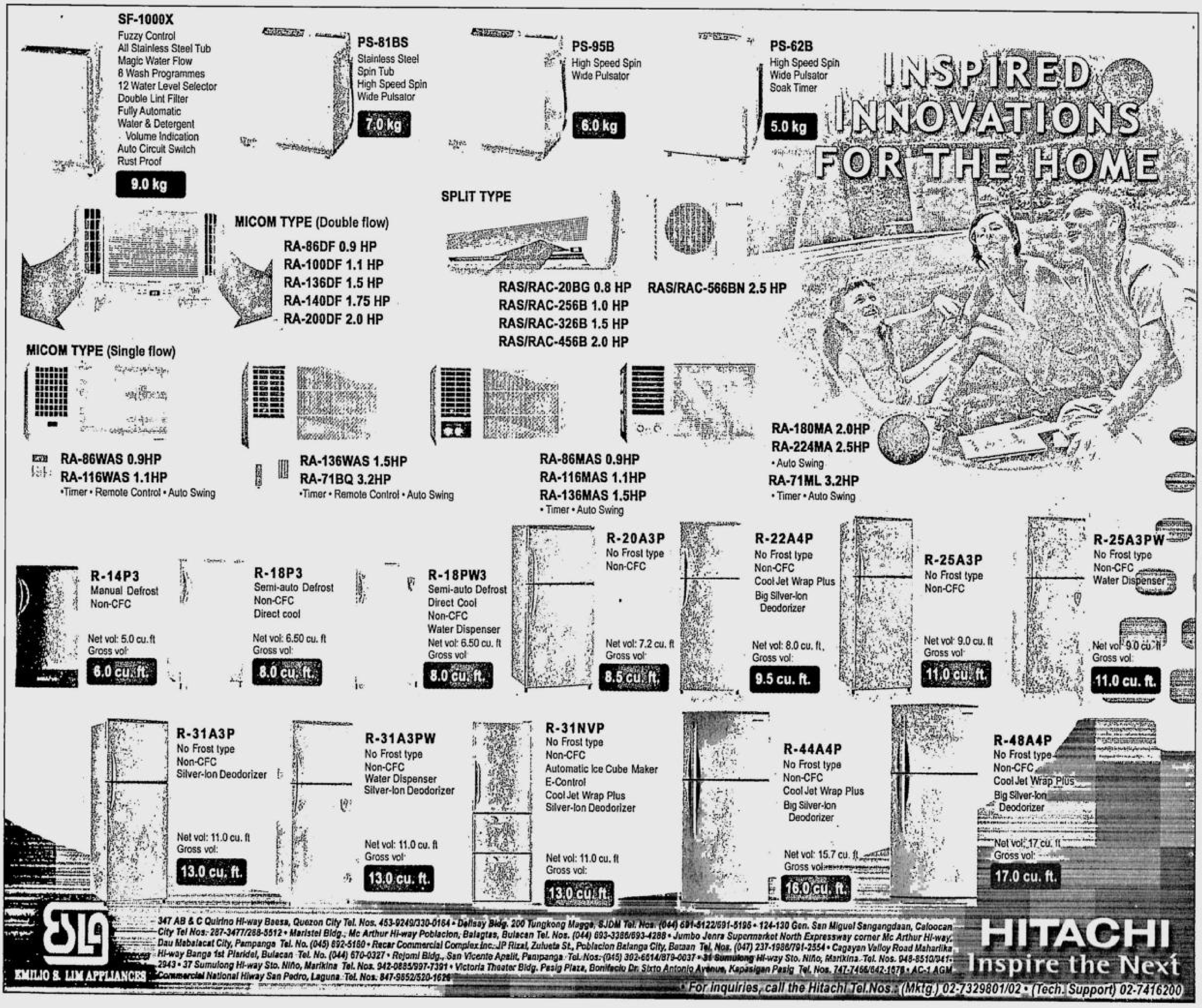
MAKER OF

CONDURA
An Even Better Choice.

Kelvinator
One of the world's first.

In Touch with Tomorrow
TOSHIBA



SF-1000X
Fuzzy Control
All Stainless Steel Tub
Magic Water Flow
8 Wash Programmes
12 Water Level Selector
Double Lint Filter
Fully Automatic
Water & Detergent Volume Indication
Auto Circuit Switch
Rust Proof
9.0 kg

PS-81BS
Stainless Steel Spin Tub
High Speed Spin
Wide Pulsator
7.0 kg

PS-95B
High Speed Spin
Wide Pulsator
6.0 kg

PS-62B
High Speed Spin
Wide Pulsator
Soak Timer
5.0 kg

INSPIRED INNOVATIONS FOR THE HOME

MICOM TYPE (Double flow)
RA-86DF 0.9 HP
RA-100DF 1.1 HP
RA-136DF 1.5 HP
RA-140DF 1.75 HP
RA-200DF 2.0 HP

SPLIT TYPE
RAS/RAC-20BG 0.8 HP
RAS/RAC-256B 1.0 HP
RAS/RAC-326B 1.5 HP
RAS/RAC-456B 2.0 HP
RAS/RAC-566BN 2.5 HP

MICOM TYPE (Single flow)
RA-86WAS 0.9HP
RA-116WAS 1.1HP
•Timer • Remote Control • Auto Swing

RA-136WAS 1.5HP
RA-71BQ 3.2HP
•Timer • Remote Control • Auto Swing

RA-86MAS 0.9HP
RA-116MAS 1.1HP
RA-136MAS 1.5HP
• Timer • Auto Swing

RA-180MA 2.0HP
RA-224MA 2.5HP
• Auto Swing
RA-71ML 3.2HP
• Timer • Auto Swing

R-14P3
Manual Defrost
Non-CFC
Net vol: 5.0 cu. ft
Gross vol:
6.0 cu. ft.

R-18P3
Semi-auto Defrost
Non-CFC
Direct cool
Net vol: 6.50 cu. ft
Gross vol:
8.0 cu. ft.

R-18PW3
Semi-auto Defrost
Direct Cool
Non-CFC
Water Dispenser
Net vol: 6.50 cu. ft
Gross vol
8.0 cu. ft.

R-20A3P
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Net vol: 7.2 cu. ft
Gross vol
8.5 cu. ft.

R-22A4P
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Big Silver-Ion Deodorizer
Net vol: 8.0 cu. ft.
Gross vol:
9.5 cu. ft.

R-25A3P
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Net vol 9.0 cu. ft
Gross vol
11.0 cu. ft.

R-25A3PW
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Water Dispenser
Net vol 9.0 cu. ft
Gross vol:
11.0 cu. ft.

R-31A3P
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Silver-Ion Deodorizer
Net vol: 11.0 cu. ft
Gross vol:
13.0 cu. ft.

R-31A3PW
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Water Dispenser
Silver-Ion Deodorizer
Net vol: 11.0 cu. ft
Gross vol
13.0 cu. ft.

R-31NVP
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Automatic Ice Cube Maker
E-Control
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Silver-Ion Deodorizer
Net vol: 11.0 cu. ft
Gross vol:
13.0 cu. ft.

R-44A4P
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Big Silver-Ion Deodorizer
Net vol: 15.7 cu. ft
Gross vol:
16.0 cu. ft.

R-48A4P
No Frost type
Non-CFC
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Big Silver-Ion Deodorizer
Net vol: 17 cu. ft
Gross vol:
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'StarTalk' rating even without Osang, says GMA 7

By Nini Valera

EVEN without Rosanna Roces, the GMA 7 show biz talk show "StarTalk" is still enjoying high ratings and strong viewership, according to a network executive.

GMA 7 vice president for entertainment Wilma Galvante told INQUIRER Entertainment last week that Roces' absence has not affected the standing of "StarTalk" among the audience.

"'StarTalk' has a high viewership, and is very strong as a show biz talk show, especially its video essays, which editorialize," said Galvante.

Roces' contract is good until March 2005. Should she decide to return to GMA 7 to finish her contract, Galvante said "we could talk about the shows, or she could return to 'StarTalk'."

The contract prohibits Roces from appearing in shows with the same format as "StarTalk." Her absence from the show is costing her P400,000 a month, her salary as 'StarTalk' co-host.

Galvante stressed that Roces could not resign from GMA 7. But GMA 7 can terminate Roces' contract even if the actress cannot.

"Yes, we can terminate her," Galvante said, "based on the contract. But she cannot terminate the contract. She was the one who entered into the contract, and it's the network that pays her."

Roces has not been replaced on the show. Instead, guest co-hosts like Lorna Tolentino, Alma Moreno and Carmina Villaruel have been taking her place.

"The hosts give very important values to the program, but Osang's absence in the past few weeks did not affect the show's rating," said Galvante. "This just speaks of the show's high credibility, with relation to the topics, which are show biz, the show biz industry."

But this does not mean that Roces is not a loss to the show.

ROCES. Her absence is costing her P400,000 a month.

"Of course she is (a loss)," Galvante said. "But we cannot say that the program won't stand without her. But she should not have left the show at all."

Despite Roces' resignation from the network, which the industry had understood as also her retirement from show biz, the actress' contract has not been terminated but was "put on hold until such time that she sees it fit to return," according to Galvante.

"We talk, and I told her I couldn't believe that she would retire," the network executive said. "I told her that real artists never retire. She said, *'hindi po, ayoko na po talaga'* (No more, I really want to quit). My take on that, however, is that for the meantime, she has retired. So I told her we should keep in touch."

Roces had said she would quit "StarTalk" to attend to her children, especially her daughter Grace, who she claimed had been traumatized by reports that she (Grace) was pregnant.

Galvante said Roces was treated by the network the same way it treated Lani Misalucha's contract when the singer supposedly retired from Philippine entertainment.

"We also wrote her a letter, saying we are putting her contract on hold until she returns," Galvante explained.

"She has hard feelings for the network," Galvante said in Filipino. "If you ask me, and I'm an officer of the network, hers is a personal feud with Doktora (Vicki) Belo and (Roces' former manager) 'Nay Lolit (Solis). The network cannot take sides, although we can air all sides.

"'StarTalk' is also her venue," Galvante added. "She has access to all (shows). But she chose to air her sentiments in another network, when it was news material anyway. Sometimes, things get out of hand and are no longer seen in the right perspective. When a person gets hurt, you cannot control the emotion anymore."

Galvante stressed that "the network has never put (Roces) down, not even during the time of the KBP issue."

"We did not say that only Osang was at fault," the network executive said. "The network never did that and would never do that."

The network faced a suspension from the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcasters ng Pilipinas after Roces described businessman Joselito Manlongat as a car thief on one episode of "StarTalk." Manlongat filed libel charges against Roces, but these were dismissed last year.

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'Dolphy Day' in Illinois

By Bernardo Bernardo
Contributor

LONG LIVE the King! (From left) Author Bernardo, producer Thom Bierbrodt, Director Estacio of Asian American Relations for the Office of the Secretary of State of Illinois, Dolphy, Padilla and Diva2 producer Dan Gawat

THE PHILIPPINES' ace comedian Dolphy was recently honored with the proclamation of July 25, 2004 as "Dolphy Day" in the entire state of Illinois.

In his proclamation, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White called upon the people of Illinois to "observe this day with ceremonies and activities that appropriately express our state's great appreciation for his (Dolphy's) decades of selfless and dedicated service to Filipino and Filipino-Americans by tirelessly sharing one of life's greatest gifts—the gift of laughter—with his many fans around the world."

White made the proclamation during a press conference and welcome reception for the cast of the Diva2 Productions show "Dolphy, King of Comedy" at the Edelweiss Penthouse of the Swissotel Chicago last Thursday, July 22.

White also noted that Dolphy, "a living legend in the Philippine entertainment industry and star of vaudeville, radio, television and film," was celebrating his 76th birthday in Chicago with a musical extravaganza designed to entertain his thousands of Filipino American fans.

Carmen Estacio, director for Asian Relations for the Secretary of State, presented the plaque to a visibly moved Dolphy. Diva2 producers Dan Gawat and Thom Bierbrodt flanked the comedian as guests, sponsors and the cast of Dophy's birthday concert applauded.

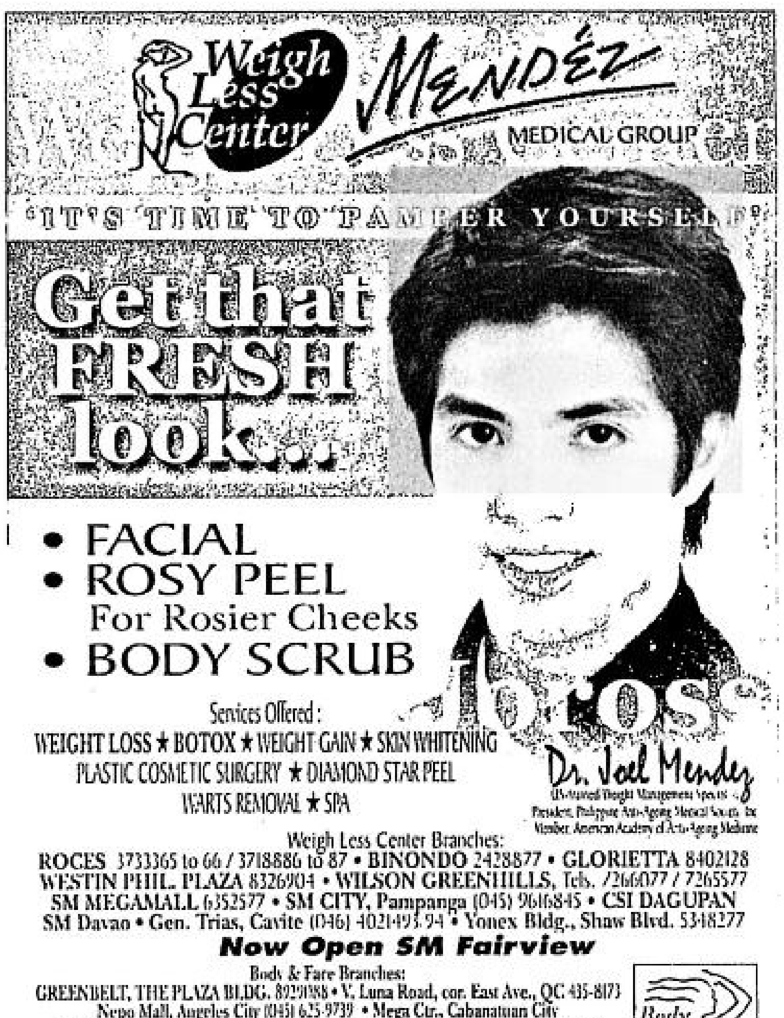
The concert cast included Dolphy's live-in partner Zsa Zsa Padilla, his son Epi Quizon, comedians Long Mejia and Mar Lopez, Chicago talent Nicca and actor Bernardo Bernardo, who also hosted the evening's festivities.

A welcome greeting and souvenirs from Mayor Richard J. Daley were presented by Deputy Chief of Staff Gene Lee, Director for Human Relations Naisy Dolar and Special Events Manager Christine Jacob. The Philippine Consulate was present in full force: Consul General Blesilda Cabrera, Consul Patrick Hilado and Cultural Attaché Eleanor Belgica.

Swissotel Credit Manager Elsa Rubio and Benedict Lubrin, regional controller, together with Via Times Publishers Vereonica Leighton and Joe Mauricio, were among the guests.

A dinner reception for the cast followed immediately at the exclusive Four Seasons, one of Chicago's foremost gourmet restaurants.

Dolphy's birthday concert opened to a full house and closed with a rousing standing ovation last Sunday, July 25, at the Gateway Theater on N. Lawrence, Chicago. The evening was a capped with a cast party at the Peninsula Hotel, Chicago's only five-star hotel.



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Day of the documentary

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE DAY of the documentary has finally come. After decades and decades of playing second fiddle and country cousin to full-length feature films, some documentaries have started to get as much attention and/or generate as much income as mainstream cinema's "story" films.

Last year, it was "Bowling for Columbine," and this year it's "Fahrenheit 9/11" that's winning awards, generating a lot of buzz and controversy, and hitting it big at the box office to the tune of more than $90 million in only four weeks of release.

On the local film scene, some exceptional documentaries have also been made, notably by **Ditsi Carolino** ("Minsan Lang Sila Bata," "Riles"). But it has taken "Imelda" to make Filipino (or, more properly in the case of "Imelda," Fil-Am) documentaries break into the mainstream.

Ironically, it had to take the initially incensed reaction of **Imelda Marcos** to the film about her to make it a should-see production in many people's book.

In any case, "Imelda" has been drawing good houses, particularly at mall cineplexes. So, we trust that local theater owners and distributors will be more welcoming of other full-length documentaries that may come knocking at their doors.

Viewers who have been brought up exclusively on a diet of mainstream "story" movies may not appreciate the unique power that documentaries can hold over moviegoers.

We consider ourselves lucky, because some of the film subjects we took exposed us to such seminal works in the documentary mode as "Battleship Potemkin," "Nanook of the North" and "Man of Aran."

Those and other documentaries convinced us that, while story films could be wonderfully emotive and empathetic, well-made documentaries could be even more riveting because they dealt with life itself, unadorned, unenhanced, and thus full of visceral power, conviction and truth.

Now that documentaries have started moving into the mainstream, we trust that theater audiences will appreciate their power and insight, which go beyond the pat plot formats, melodrama and self-conscious stellar performances that make many full-length story features so predictable.

The day of the documentary has arrived. If its best exponents play their cards well, this could even end up as the documentary's year!

Anak TV Seal

THE ANNUAL derby that pits TV programs and stations against each other in an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendly competition unreeled last July 27. The Anak TV Seal ceremonies were held at the Negros Navigation Passenger Reception Hall, Pier 2, North Harbor, and marked the entry of the newest partners of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television, which spearheads the annual search for outstanding child-friendly TV shows.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by SEAFCTV and its new partners, Negros Navigation, Uni-President and PLDT, as well as renewing partners Columbia International Foods, Panasonic and Cebu Pacific.

Anak TV Seal is the symbol of good housekeeping on Philippine TV. Last year, thousands of jurors from all walks of life all over the country chose 45 winners, and a similar bumper crop of exceptional shows is expected to be "harvested" this year.

Cinema on 'I, Robot'

CINEMA, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' initiative for enlightened film appreciation, has given "I, Robot" a "slightly above average" assessment for technicals, and an "acceptable" ethical assessment.

Excerpts: "The biggest plus of this film is how the plot, dialogue and scenes are interwoven to come up with an emotionally compelling story, and to bring life to inanimate objects like robots. There is no wasted moment, everything is revealed in every act, and each motivation is well-based.

"This is complemented by the SFX creation of a futuristic Chicago. 'Seamless' is a way to describe this film as it succeeds in actualizing the viewer's imagination.

"On the other hand, **Will Smith** may be getting too typecast portraying the fresh and oftentimes ill-disciplined cop of the future. But he delights the audience with his with-it performance."

Benefit concert

LA ALDEA, an NGO based in Spain, is presenting a benefit concert for the malnourished children of Baseco. Ars Nova, a famous choir from Spain, will perform at St. Scholastica's College on Aug. 5, and at San Agustin Church on Aug. 6. Call 400-0261 or 0917-8120677.

The project, in partnership with the City of Manila, will raise funds to rehabilitate malnourished children through supplementary feeding and nutrition education. Parents of the children will also be provided livelihood opportunities.

ON THE WING. "Mulawin" stars (from left) King, Gutierrez, Locsin, Trillo and De los Reyes

New tele-fantasy flies!

By Irene C. Perez

SHOW TIME

WE'VE seen it all on telenovelas: family trees branching out in all directions, baby-swapping, bungled homicides, acid-throwing, amnesia cases. And then there are the two fantasy series from the two giant networks featuring mermaids, complete with their under-the-sea world.

Now comes "Mulawin," said to be the most expensive tele-fantasya from GMA 7, which the network says is aimed at reinventing local soap-opera viewing with striking visual effects and grand production design.

The creative pool headed by directors Dominic Zapata and Lore Reyes and head writer Don Michael Perez created the mythology of "Mulawin." According to their story, Mulawins are a breed of half-bird, half-human beings committed to protect their tribe as well as humans from the fury of the Ravenas, the subversive Mulawin group seeking revenge against humans.

"During brainstorming, we knew we had to come up with a 'super soap,'" said head writer Perez. "We thought of stories from our childhood and 'Man from Atlantis' came up (the '70s TV show about a man who could breathe underwater). But GMA 7 already has 'Marinara,' so why not a character who could fly?"

Breakthrough

Teen star Richard Gutierrez plays the lead as Aguiluz, a young Mulawin who can fly and who risks life and wings to defend Alwina, played by Angel Locsin. Alwina, the daughter of Mulawin Bagwis (Zoren Legaspi) and the mortal Veronica (Ara Mina), falls for Aguiluz, who has been her protector since childhood.

Aguiluz fights countless battles to save his ladylove and mankind from the Ravenas.

Asked if there's more than a professional relationship between him and Locsin, Gutierrez said he's too busy to court anyone. "Angel is very pretty and nice but I think it would be unfair if I'll have a girlfriend right now because I won't have time for her," he said in Filipino.

In the cast of "Mulawin" are soap opera staples, new faces and celebrities on a comeback. Among the mythical winged characters are Gary Estrada as the wicked Ravena leader Rasmus; Romnick Sarmienta as Habagat, Bagwis' brother who defects from the tribe. Bearwin Meily as Kuwak and Marissa Sanchez as Tuka are sidekicks who mess up most of the time.

Richard's dad

In the human world, Dennis Trillo plays Gabriel, the lone Montenegro heir who fights Aguiluz for Alwina; Amy Austria as Lourdes who raises Alwina as her own child; and Karen de los Reyes as the social climber Savana.

Also in the cast are Lloyd Samartino, Pia Pilapil, Kiel Rodriguez, Bianca King and Jaja Bolivar.

Eddie Gutierrez plays the role of old Mulawin guru Dakila, and has no reservations about playing a supporting role to his real-life son, Richard.

"I think he's a better actor than I was when I was his age," Eddie said in Filipino.

Director Zapata, of the '90s "TGIS" fame, said they had to brew something new for the audience. "Like the character of Dao Ming Si in 'Meteor Garden,'" he pointed out, "He's mean and that's not accepted in our culture. We have to come up with an original that will capture the audience."

Creating a new mythology, a refreshing break from Tagalized soaps, is no simple feat for the creative group. They shoot thrice a week on location, 22 hours a day, carefully calculating shots, especially those where the actors are required to fly.

Cooperative actors

Heavy, elaborate costumes ate up a large part of the production budget. Gutierrez's wings alone reportedly cost thousands of pesos.

"The costumes, the whole production, cause delays," said Reyes. This is because the staff wouldn't compromise creativity for comfort, he said.

The actors have limited movements but they can't show discomfort during takes. The two directors said they have very cooperative actors.

"The whole gear takes a lot of time to put on, especially the contact lenses," Estrada said of his costume.

Some may notice political and environmental undertones in the soap, but when the ornate details are stripped off, what's left is the love story of Aguiluz and Alwina. "We don't want to be too epic-ish," said Zapata. "We want to keep its novelty."

"Mulawin" airs starting tonight.

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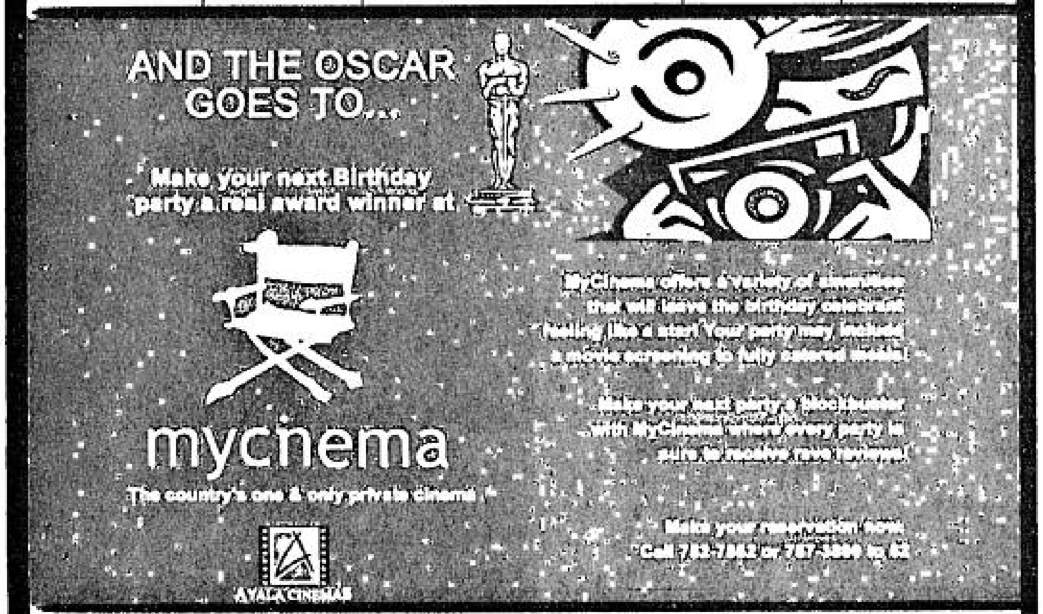

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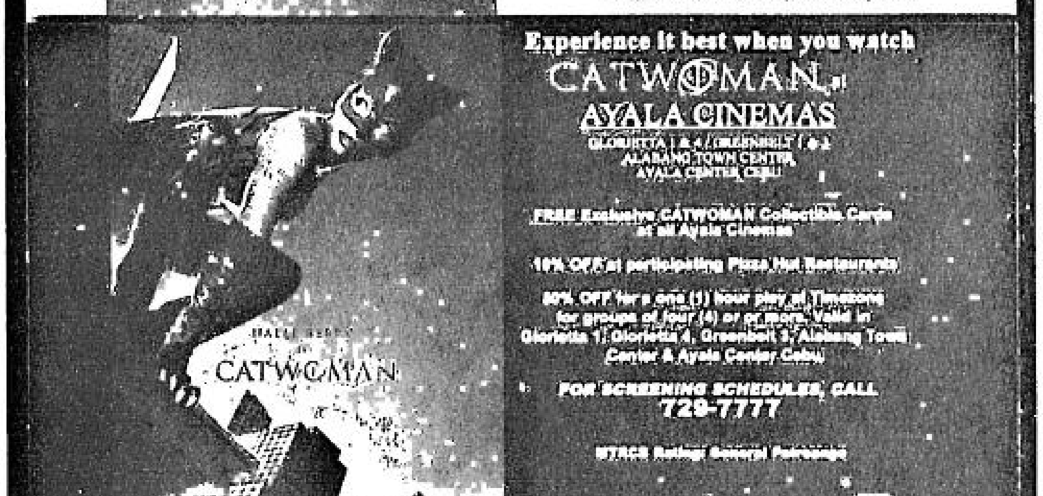

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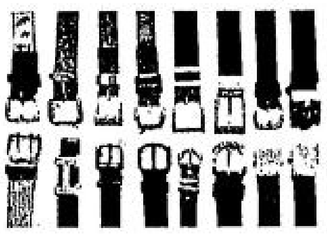
His & hers

From page C4

says. "By 1:30 p.m., I was done. I could still fetch my kids. I'm active in my kids' schools. I'm a volunteer mom.

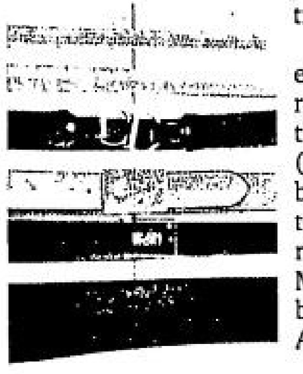
"I still do TV guestings and host corporate shows," Liezl says. "I also do mall tours with Alyssa on weekends for a soap brand we endorse."

The couple eagerly brought out their favorite stuff for Out of the Closet. Albert has his pictures taken in the living room, while Liezl has hers in the TV room, but they apparently share the same taste and splurge on the same things.



His shoes. "Most of my shoes here are working shoes. I have my Jose Rizal shoes, the ones I wore in the movie. I still keep them. I searched for the right style—black leather, high-cut, with that turn-of-the-century look. I also have pairs I wear when I play a working-class or poor character (shows his pair of brown high-cut combat boots).

"When buying shoes, I go for style. Right now, the square-toed shoes are fading out so I'll soon change to the pointed types. For working out, I like my Nike (Air Max) and Adidas (Clima Cool). Gym shoes have to be light and cool."



Her shoes. "This pair of gold strapped sandals from Escada is not really my favorite. It's just that I use this a lot of times. If you have one pair in gold, one pair in silver and one pair in black, you're okay. I've worn this pair so much that the heels broke. I had them fixed. Usually, during cocktails, you stand up for a long time. Wearing this really feels comfortable.

"Buying an expensive pair like this Escada is really worth it because it lasts a long time. You don't keep changing pairs so you don't spend much.

"I recently bought these cute black and white Adidas rubber shoes. They're dress or ballet shoes. They're the fad now.

"What I really like are loafers. A lot of girls are not used to wearing flats, but I am. I bought these black loafers from the Ferragamo factory in Italy. I've had them for eight years and I still use them. Loafers don't change in style. They become a little pointed or square, but they all look the same. They're very versatile, they look good with jeans, slacks, even shorts.

"Unlike my daughter, who is more into trends, I go for the basic styles. Sometimes, I borrow shoes from her when I need to look trendy."

His bags. "I love bags. I really invest in them. I like using side bags. Clutch bags were popular for a time, but I never really liked them. They're too inconvenient because you have to hold them every time. I bring my documents, my cell phones, my cologne and whatever I feel I might need for the day. Side bags or body bags give you added security. They're close to your body and they're not too cumbersome.

"Most of them are gifts. Dr. Vicki Belo gave me a Louis Vuitton side bag. I use it for business transactions. It's a lucky bag. So far, it has proven to be good for business deals. I also have one I use with jeans and one I use when I travel."

Her bags. "I change bags every day. My friends and relatives know I like bags so that's what I get from them (like the two Prada handbags from Gretchen Barretto and an Yves Saint Laurent leather backpack and a Mandarina Duck shoulder bag from her mom, Amalia).

"I have bags from the really expensive to the really cheap. I bought this white bag at a *bangketa* place in Hong Kong. It's really cute. I'm so proud of it that I even tell my friends how cheap I bought it for.

"My kids gave me this Dior pouch for Christmas. It's expensive. They pooled their money to buy it.

"Bvlgari knows I love bags so they gave me one. I love it, I really do. I'm just looking for an outfit to match it.

"My evening bags are all in boxes. I take care of them really well. I don't want to tell you how much these bags cost because my husband might have a heart attack.

BAG BOY. "I really love bags," he says.

"I bought this Blue Prada bag in Japan. Second-hand *lang ito*. In Japan, they have like pawnshops for bags. I had no intention of buying second-hand bags. I just stumbled on that store, but I liked this bag because it's waterproof."

His formal wear. "I always want my suits tapered or body-hugging. The opposite is called barrel cut. Most of my suits are from Bergamo and Njork. For foreign lines, I use Hugo Boss and Linea. I love wearing suits. I actually have a lot."

BAG LADY. "My husband might have a heart attack" if he knew how much her bag cost. The Bvlgari, however, is a gift.

Her formal wear. "I first wore this Gang Gomez dress in 1983. He was very popular in the '80s, but he is now a monk in Bukidnon. I know that the gowns he made a long time ago are now considered vintage. They're very expensive now. I have seven gowns made by him. I plan to have them updated soon.

"We did a series of shows in Europe in the late '90s, like in London, Norway and Italy. Usually for Filipino shows, producers want Filipiniana costumes. My aunt first owned this. She hand-made it herself. Every time Filipinos abroad see this, they really, really appreciate the beadwork. I also wore this at the Fukuoka Film Festival. Albert was one of the guests and we were the Philippine representatives. Albert wore a *barong* Tagalog.

"I wore this Rajo Laurel dress at the Manila Film Festival awards show, where Albert won as best supporting actor.

"This gold halter dress is vintage Halston that used to be my mom's. She has a lot of Halstons. She even has vintage Valentinos. I never pay much attention to the gowns she gave me before. I thought, 'where will I put these?' Now that they're in fashion again, I had them dry-cleaned."

His casual wear. "In jeans, I follow the trend. I've been getting the latest jeans from Bobson. Before, I used Bench. What I like about the new jeans now is that they emphasize the shape of your behind. The only pair of pants I bought is this Gaultier. It's straight-cut, stone-washed and really trendy.

"U2 is my favorite brand in shirts. Most of the shirts I get from U2 are body hugging and the material is not too warm. I like Bobson, too. They sponsor most of my shirts. I don't like stretch or polyester. I prefer cotton."

Her casual wear. "Most of my blouses are from Jessica. I bought this floral halter top last week. What I like about Jessica is that the quality is good but the price is cheap. Sometimes, when you go to a lot of events or parties, you can't wear the same outfit all the time so it's not practical to buy those that are really expensive. It won't matter if an outfit is a Channel if people see you wearing it all the time."

His belts. "Belts are the only accessories I buy. Men should be color-coordinated. Your belts have to match the color of your shoes."

Her belts. "I only buy my belts on sale. I never go out of my way to buy belts. If I need anything trendy, I could always borrow from my girls."

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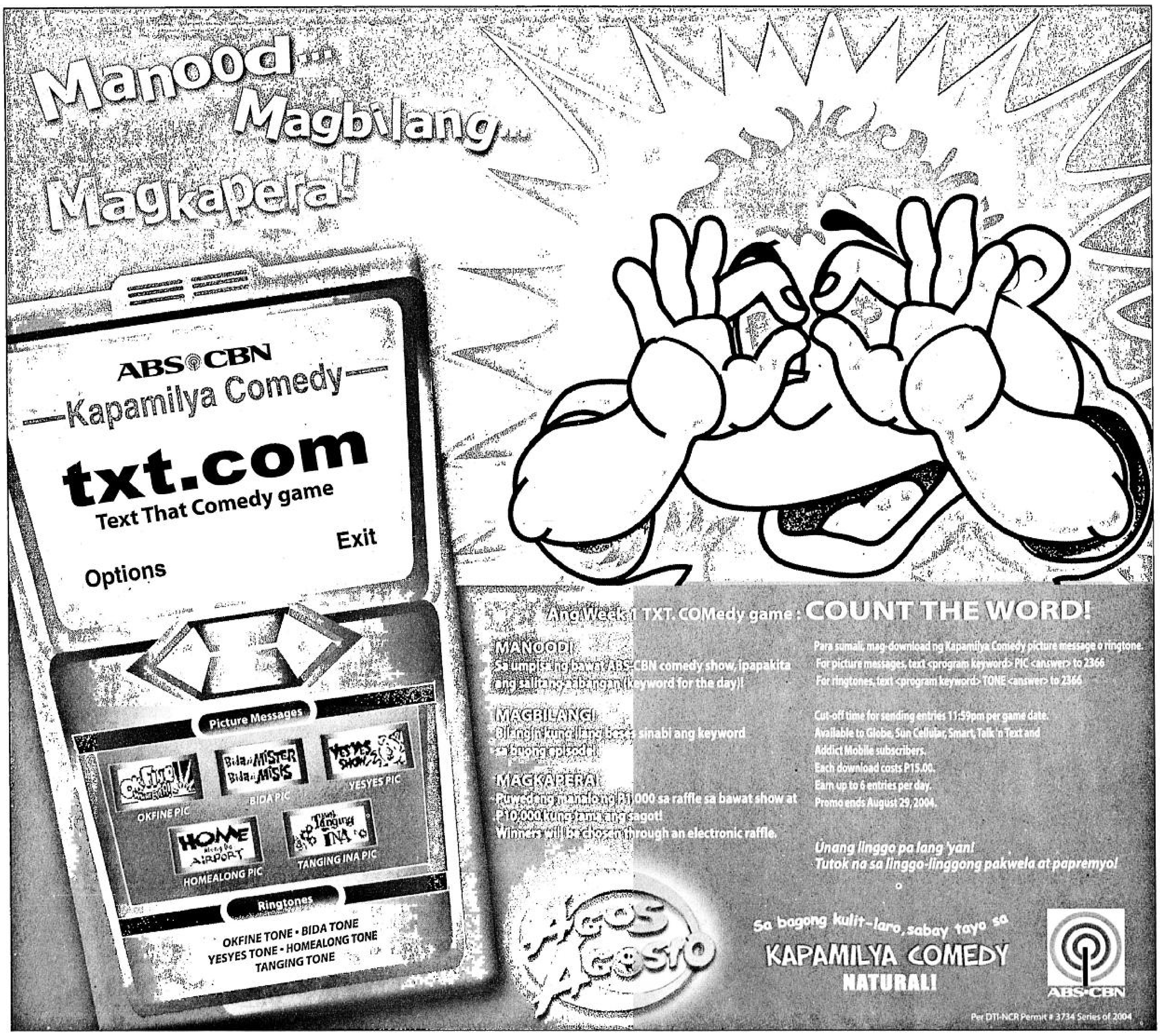

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Sa umpisa ng bawat ABS-CBN comedy show, ipapakita ang salitang aabangan (keyword for the day)!

MAGBILANG!
Bilangin kung ilang beses sinabi ang keyword sa buong episode!

MAGKAPERA!
Puwedeng manalo ng P1,000 sa raffle sa bawat show at P10,000 kung tama ang sagot!
Winners will be chosen through an electronic raffle.

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For picture messages, text <program keyword> PIC <answer> to 2366
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Cut-off time for sending entries 11:59pm per game date.
Available to Globe, Sun Cellular, Smart, Talk 'n Text and Addict Mobile subscribers.
Each download costs P15.00.
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Promo ends August 29, 2004.

Unang linggo pa lang 'yan!
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Agos Agosto

Sa bagong kulit-laro, sabay tayo sa
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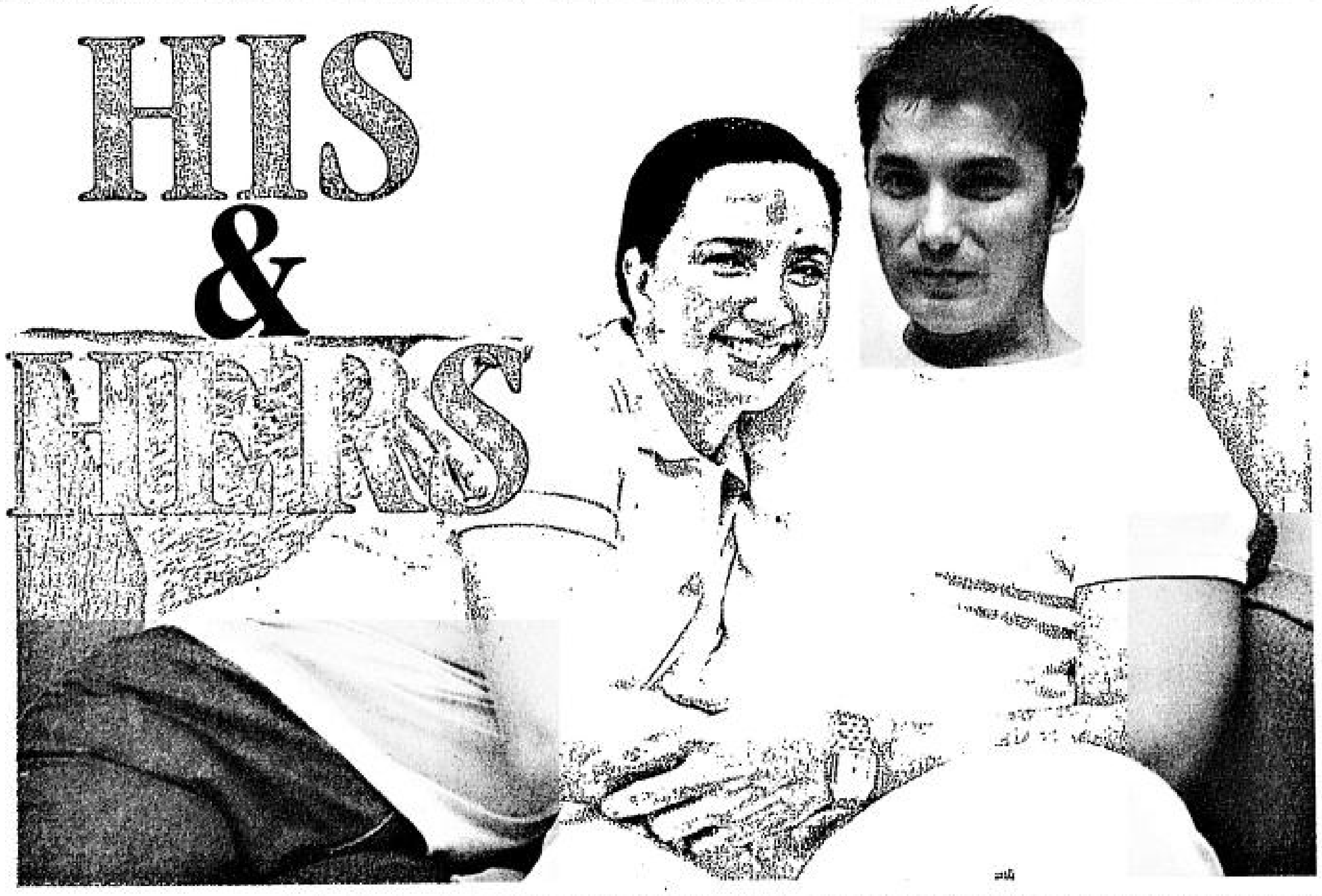
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3734 Series of 2004

ENTERTAINMENT

OUT OF THE CLOSET

HIS & HERS

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan



19 YEARS and counting. Love, respect and quality time keep Albert and Liezl together.

FOR ALBERT and Liezl Martinez, love and respect are the key to preserving their 19-year marriage.

Albert and Liezl were married in civil rites in Las Vegas in 1985, against the wishes of the bride's mother, former actress Amalia Fuentes.

Albert used to say he courted Liezl "against all odds." Liezl was only 17 and Amalia wanted her to finish her studies in the US. Albert left his thriving show-biz career in the Philippines to follow his ladylove. Ten years later, they had their church wedding in the Philippines. They now have three good-looking kids: Alyana (18), Alfonso (17) and Alyssa (12).

"New couples think love is enough for their marriage to survive," Liezl tells INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at the Martinez home in Quezon City. "More than that, there has to be respect. When you encounter problems, you don't think of love when you're hurting. But when you respect one another, you won't hurt each other that much."

Liezl says it's tough being married to an actor like Albert. "I hardly see him," she says, "especially during the recent Film Academy Awards. He was out even on Sundays, which is family day. I complained. I told him, 'I feel like we're just roommates.'"

Albert produced the much-talked-about FAP Awards show held at the CCP Main Theater last July 6.

"Tapings for his soap require that he shows up at 6 a.m.," explains Liezl. "He goes home at 9 a.m. the next day. Then he sleeps. He wakes up only in time to prepare for the next day."

But Albert says he makes up for lost time by making sure "family time is quality time. Whether it's just a day or two, I make sure we do something really special."

On Sundays when Albert is free, the family hears Mass, eats dinner and watches a movie.

With three kids and a furniture business to take care of, Liezl has no plans of going back to show business. She was one of the hosts of the noontime show "SST" in the '90s.

"What was good about 'SST' was that I knew what time it would finish," she

HIS/ C3

VINTAGE HALSTON. A high-priced hand-me-down from mom Amalia

SUITS HIM WELL. "I love wearing suits."

LIKE MOM, like daughter. When she has to wear trendy shoes, she borrows from her daughter.

ACTING FEET. His working shoes are for his movie characters, like combat boots for working-class characters.

AGOS AGOSTO

NONSTOP NA DALOY NG KAKWELAHAN! HEAVY DOWNPOUR NG PAKULO AT PAPREMYO!

Da BEST na birthday special at bigating guests sa 2nd anniversary ng **OK, FINE! WHATEVER** tulad nina 2004 World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan. Iya Villania at Marco Alcaraz.

Bibirada sa ACTION ang birthday special, mga istorya at celebrity guests ng **BIDA SI MISTER, BIDA SI MISIS** tulad nina Joross at Roderick Paulate.

DOS POR DOS ang doble-kulitang hataw ng mga doble-bigating bisita sa **YES, YES SHOW** tulad ni John Prats.

Aarangkada ang unang anibersaryong halakhakan sa iba't ibang MUKHA NG KOMEDYA sa **HOME ALONG DA AIRPORT** hatid nina Eddie Gil, Danilo Barrios at Spencer Reyes.

May kilig-kwelang LALAKI POWER sa unang anibersaryo ng **ANG TANGING INA** hatid nina Edu Manzano, Jestoni Alarcon at Dennis Padilla.

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ABS-CBN

BPI 153 YEARS: LEADERSHIP IN ALL FRONTS

BPI marks 153rd anniversary as most awarded bank

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands marked its 153rd anniversary on Sunday, August 1.

Established on that date in 1851, BPI is thus the oldest commercial bank in the Philippines and in all of Southeast Asia. It was originally known as El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II. It acquired its present name during the American occupation.

For certain, the bank has a lot to show in terms of accomplishments in its more than one and a half centuries of existence. It issued the first paper money, called pesos fuertes, and financed the first train service, the first telephone system, the first electric power utility, and first steamship service in the country.

It is not one to rest on its laurels though. In modern times, the bank introduced the first 24-hour automated teller machine and, in quick succession, the debit card, Internet virtual banking, express phone banking, and other innovations.

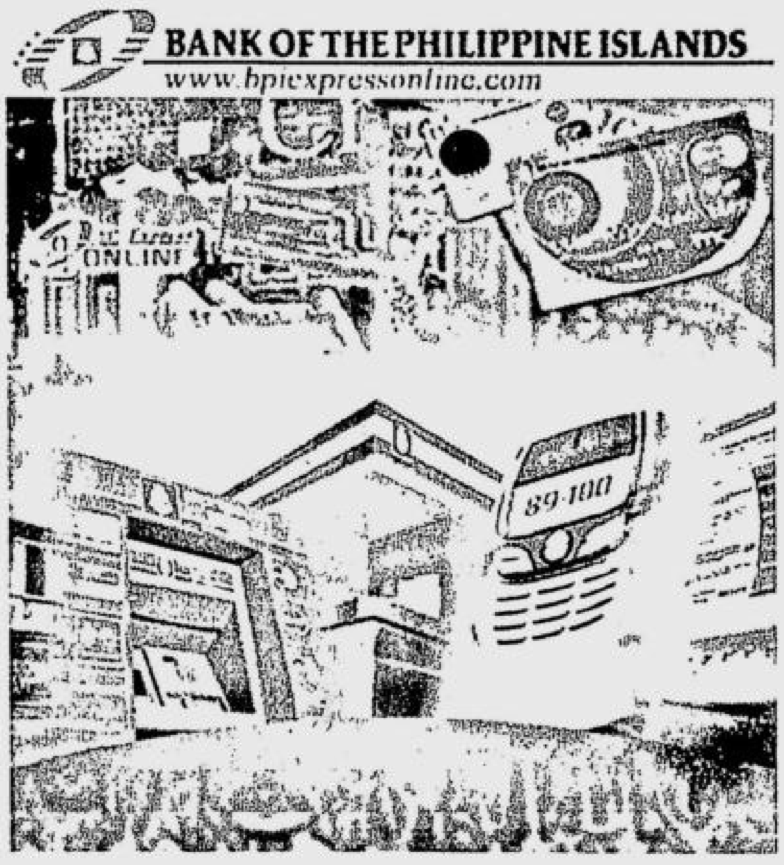
Today, the bank operates the most extensive banking network, with more than 700 online branches, 1,000 onsite and offsite automated teller machines, and 9,000 point-of-sale terminals in various merchant establishments throughout the country.

Its call center, capable of handling 800,000 calls a month, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, holidays included.

No wonder, BPI is the most awarded bank in the country. The latest honors it has won come from Global Finance and Euromoney, which names it the best domestic bank; AsiaMoney which names it the Best Domestic FX Bank; and Reader's Digest Asia, which gives it the superbrand award in banking.

For nine years, Far Eastern Economic Review named the bank the most financially sound institution. Likewise, Euromoney, Global Finance, AsiaMoney Finance Asia and Asian Banker have given it their highest awards year after year.

The exact award titles vary, but all these financial magazines consistently describe the bank as the best. It is the best commercial bank, best retail bank, best investment bank, best emerging markets bank, best Internet bank, best in corporate governance, best in investor relations, and best in financial management, among others.



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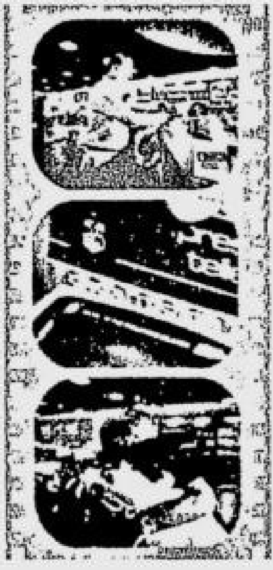

You go cashless shopping with the **Express Teller's EPS** at over 5,500 stores in the country...

You've made **Express Online** a daily habit, checking your balances, reviewing your transactions and transferring funds. And through **BPI Trade**, you take care of your investments online...

When travelling abroad, you use your **Express Teller Card** to withdraw cash in the currency of the country you're in through 850,000 Cirrus/Maestro ATMs worldwide...

You enjoy the convenience of reloading your prepaid cellphone instantly with **Express Prepaid** through **Express Phone, Express Online** or at over 1,000 **Express Teller ATMs...**

And finally, as an **Expat Filipino**, you take care of your family's financial needs through our banking channels even if you are thousands of miles away.

Throughout the years, you have remained a loyal and very important part of the BPI family; building and keeping relationships with our officers and staff in over *700 BPI and BPI Family Bank branches and Express Banking Centers* nationwide.

...And share with you our newest award as the *BEST RETAIL BANK IN THE PHILIPPINES*, the second year in a row.

An award given by THE ASIAN BANKER
STRATEGIC BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR THE FINANCIAL SERVICE COMMUNITY

Reader's Digest Philippines SUPERBRAND 2004 Gold

BPI was also given the Reader's Digest SuperBrand award

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P100,000.

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

BPI, METRO DRUG SIGN E-COMMERCE PARTNERSHIP. The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently signed an agreement to provide Metro Drug Inc (MDI) with an online financial management platform through which the latter can connect with customers and distributors. By logging into BPI Expresslink E-Commerce, Metro Drug can present invoices to its customers and distributors and a wide range of billing and payment options available through the Internet. The BPI Expresslink E-commerce Facility is the only online financial management facility in the country that employs the highest level of security, that includes authentication of the identity of the person accessing the system. In photo after the launch are BPI chief operating officer Aurelio Montinola III (from left) and Metro Drug president and general manager David Ames.

MorganStanley

BPI LANDMARK DEAL UNDER SPV ACT OF 2002. The Bank of the Philippine Islands recently signed an agreement with Morgan Stanley for the sale of a portfolio of non-performing loans of up to P8.6 Billion to Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc (MSEMEI) right after the BPI Board of Directors approved the sale in its last meeting. BPI's aggressive loan provisioning policy and MSEMI's positive outlook for the Philippines have enabled this landmark deal to be realized. This transaction will be structured under the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Act of 2002 and is expected to be completed within the year after complying with the regulatory requirements. Shown in photo after signing are (seated from left): BPI executive vice-president Gil A. Buenaventura, Morgan Stanley vice-president M. L. Chandchutha Chandratat and BPI senior vice-president Senen L. Matoto. Also present during the signing of landmark deal were: BPI senior vice-president Natividad Alejo (first from left), BPI president Xavier P. Loinaz (third from left) and BPI senior executive VP and COO Aurelio Montinola III (first from right).

BPI unveils Express Learning Center

THE ALTERNATIVE banking channels introduced by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) have forever changed the landscape of banking in the country. Now, these alternative channels will be brought closer to BPI's clients through the Express Learning Center (ELC).

The ELC is a tutorial center where the bank plans to teach its existing, potential and new clients on how to use BPI's alternative banking channels. It aims to make clients realize the convenience of using these channels so they do not have to do over-the-counter transactions.

Through the ELC, customers will be able to take advantage of these channels in relation to their lifestyles, thereby giving more value to their relationship with the bank.

The ELC will soon serve clients near or in proximity to the Express Banking Centers (EBC) or Convenience Banking Center (CBC).

Express World in the palm of your hands

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is responsible for the most impactful innovations in modern banking. In fact, it was BPI that put convenience banking on the map. And speaking of map, BPI is introducing Express World. Now, convenience banking is taken several notches up with BPI's variety of delivery channels.

With BPI's Express Teller ATM, customers can access their cash anytime through over 3,289 Expressnet and Megalink ATMs across the country. If one happens to be a BPI Express Teller International cardholder, she can likewise access her account even when she is abroad through over 906,000 Cirrus/Mastero ATMs worldwide.

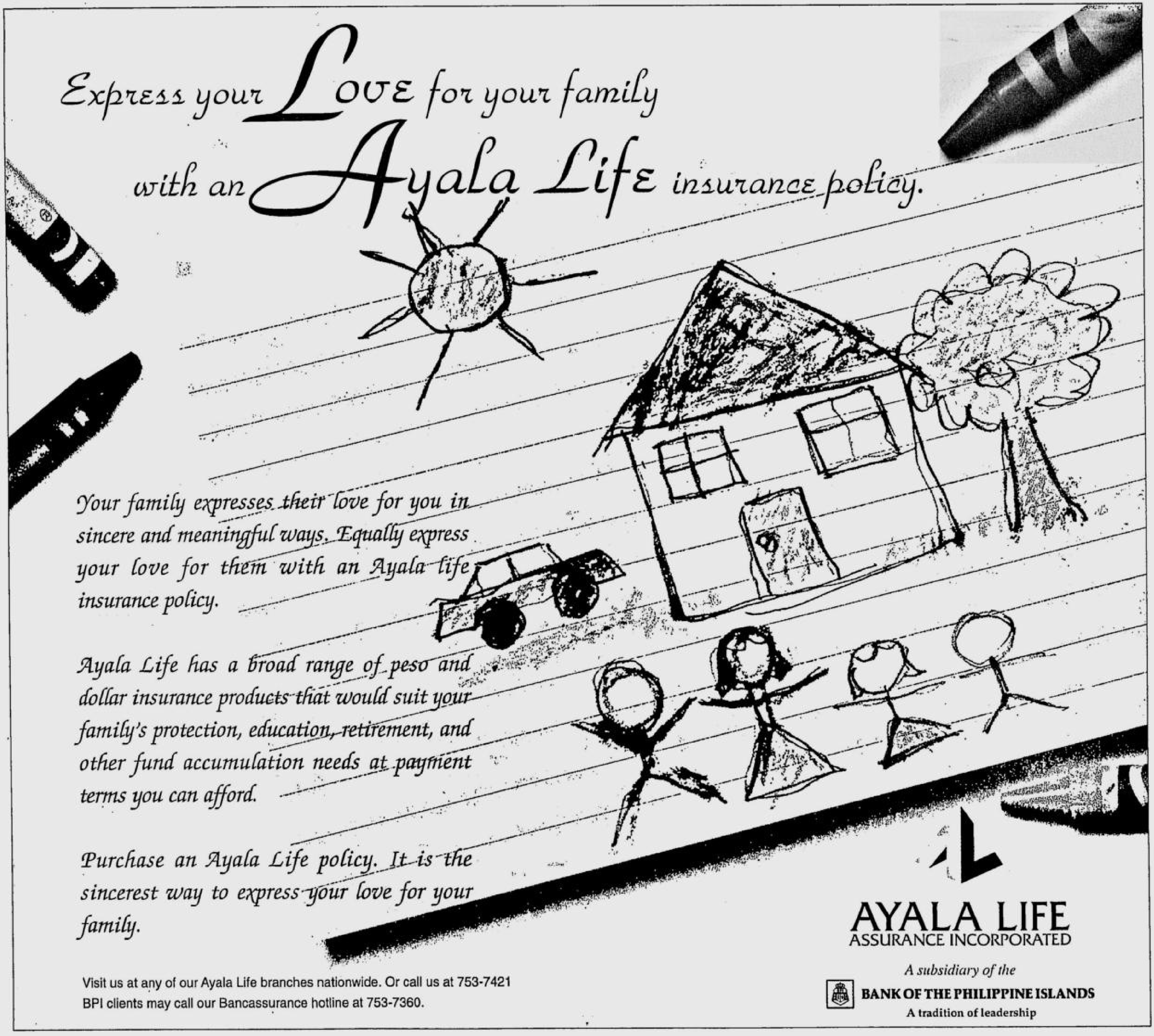
The Express Phone's 89-100 number is an easy-to-remember combination that is heavy on features. Clients can check their balance, transfer funds, pay their bills or report their lost ATM cards sans the hassles. Banking 24/7 anywhere is now so easy with the Express Phone. With 89-100 and one's Express Teller card number and telephone ID number, banking has never been this breezy.

BPI's Internet banking facility, Express Online is another great way to do banking anytime, anywhere. Enroll that Express Teller account and view those transaction details, get those bills online and request for a stop payment order real-time 24/7.

With the Express Connect, customers can inquire about their deposit account balance instantly. The Text Banking facility affords clients to enjoy the convenience of doing balance inquiry of accounts from anywhere through the SMS of one's mobile phone. One can even inquire on his credit card, auto and housing loan balances.

Of course, how can one miss the very popular Express Payment System? This is cashless shopping at its finest, with over 5,500 shops nationwide offering EPS. Swipe the card in the point-of-sale terminal and those purchases will be debited from one's account. No more cash to carry around-and no more missing out on fabulous sale items!

> Clients can check their balance, transfer funds, pay their bills or report their lost ATM cards sans the hassles. Banking 24/7 anywhere is now so easy with the Express Phone.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Promos for BPI Auto Loan clients

BPI Family Savings Bank has the most loyal Happy Family Auto Loan clients. This time, repeat auto loan clients will be treated to BPI's latest promos.

To join the ongoing "Treat For Repeat" promo, repeat clients only have to visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch nationwide, the nearest participating auto dealer or log on to www.bpidirect.com and avail of a Happy Family Loan regardless of the amount financed from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Eligible repeat clients will receive one of the following "Treat For Repeat" showcases: Dad's Car Care Tools (vacuum cleaner, car auto polisher, car matting, car wax, windshield cleaner and chamois); Mom's Kitchen Corner (electric water kettle, one-burner gas stove and rice cooker); Kids' Fun Fest (one pair of badminton rackets, Mikasa Power Volleyball, Mikasa Aftershock Basketball, digital skip rope, Snakes & Ladders board games and Scribbage); Family Picnic Picks (Coleman Tent, 10-quart cooler and 1/3-gallon water carrier); and Family Carry-Alls (trolley bag, tote bag, travel case and backpack).

The ongoing "Family Fun Adventures" promo awaits clients who avail of a Happy Family Auto Loan with a minimum loan amount of P450,000. Clients need only visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch nationwide, the nearest participating auto dealer or log on to www.bpidirect.com and avail of a Happy Family Auto Loan from March 1 to Oct. 31.

The "Family Fun Adventures" promo covers brand-new and second-hand vehicle types such as passenger cars, vans, sports utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, Asian utility vehicles and trucks.

Clients can choose only one of the packages in these hotels and resorts: Astoria Plaza (Ortigas Center), Bohol Beach Club, Business Inn (Bacolod City), Fort Ilocandia, Hotel Veniz (Baguio City), Legenda Suites (Subic Bay Olongapo), Mandarin Oriental, Manila Diamond Hotel, Pearl Farm Davao City, Pepperland Hotel (Legazpi City), Pink Patio Boracay, Ridgeview Chalets (Cagayan de Oro City), Subic Homes, Taal Vista Hotel, Tambuli Beach Resort (Mactan, Cebu), Marco Polo Hotel (Davao City), The Quiet Place (Bacolod City), Westin Philippine Plaza, Villa de Oro Boracay, and Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

The promo is good until Dec. 31.

BPI Family Savings Bank's 'Erase Your Housing Loan'

BPI Family Savings Bank recently launched its latest promo, "Erase Your Housing Loan". The promo gives homebuyers with new housing loan bookings from Aug. 1 to Dec. 15, a chance to erase his/her loan up to P1,000,000.

A homebuyer simply has to avail of a Happy Family Housing Loan with a minimum loan amount of P400,000 within the indicated promo period.

The loan purpose covers the following: lot, house and lot, townhouse or residential condominium, house construction, home renovation, refinancing of existing loan from other banks, or multi-purpose loan.

Every loan booked equals one raffle ticket. The ticket will correspond to the loan account number. This means that the loan client has a chance to erase P100,000, P250,000, P500,000 or P1,000,000 tax-free from his/her Happy Family Housing Loan in three monthly draws and one grand draw.

Avail of a Happy Family Housing Loan now! Call 845-688 or 89-100.

BPI's new Express Scheduler, Online FX

IN 1996, the Bank of the Philippine Islands launched www.bpi.com.ph. In 1998, it became an interactive website with banking application forms.

Since its establishment, BPI's www.bpiexpressonline.com has made Internet banking more secure, inviting, accessible and customer-friendly. What better way to prove this point than with the new Express Scheduler, which allows clients to schedule his/her check-free payment, Express Cash reloading, and funds transfer way ahead of time.

Customers can now enjoy worry-free payment of bills or Express Cash reloading or transferring of funds from their settlement account to a higher-yielding account. All they have to do is schedule their transactions and BPI Express Online will do the rest. They may choose between one-time or recurring schedules, which may be done monthly or quarterly for a period of one year.

BPI Express Online will also send the customer an e-mail several days before the scheduled transaction date to remind him/her of the incoming transaction.

Still another new and convenient feature is Online FX, the latest online service in BPI Express Online and the first-ever multi-currency transfer facility in the Internet.

Online FX is ideal for clients who need to convert their US dollars into pesos at competitive rates. Indeed, this service does away with the hassle of waiting behind long lines in FX counters.

Online FX allows the conversion of dollars to pesos by transferring funds from the Dollar ATM-based deposit account to the Peso ATM-based deposit account. Both the dollar and peso account should be enrolled in Express Online.

Amounts transferred will then be debited from the dollar account and the peso equivalent will be credited to the peso account, real-time.

For more inquiries, visit www.bpiexpressonline.com, call 89-100 or e-mail at expressonline@bpi.com.ph.

How would you like to erase ₱1,000,000 from your housing loan?
Join the BPI Family Savings Bank
ERASE your HOUSING LOAN Promo

Get the chance to erase ₱100,000, ₱250,000, ₱500,000 or even ₱1,000,000 from your Happy Family Housing Loan!

MECHANICS:

1. All clients who avail of a BPI Family Savings Bank Happy Family Housing Loan, for a minimum loan amount of ₱400,000, from August 1 to December 15, 2004 will be entitled to a raffle ticket. Loan availments coursed through any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank Branch, Express Banking Center or Business Center nationwide or through BPI Express Online are qualified to join the promo.
2. There will be one raffle ticket number for every loan booked. The raffle ticket number will correspond to the loan account number.
3. To qualify for the promo, the purpose of the loan should be any of the following:
   - Purchase of Lot, House and Lot, Townhouse or Residential Condominium
   - House Construction
   - Home Renovation
   - Refinancing of existing loan with other banks
   - Multi-purpose Loan
4. There will be three draws and one Grand Draw wherein client's loan will be erased up to ₱1 Million. Non-winning loan accounts are still qualified in the succeeding draws. The draw dates are as follows:

First Draw : September 10, 2004 (Friday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to August 31, 2004
Second Draw : October 8, 2004 (Friday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to September 30, 2004
Third Draw : November 12, 2004 (Friday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to October 31, 2004
Grand Draw : December 23, 2004 (Thursday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to December 15, 2004

The prizes are as follows:
1st Draw - 3 winners of ₱100,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
2nd Draw - 2 winners of ₱250,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
3rd Draw - 1 winner of ₱500,000.00, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.*

Grand Draw - 1 winner of ₱1.0 Million, tax-free, to be applied to the entire loan.*

*In the event that the outstanding balance of the winner is less than the prize amount, the difference will be credited to the winner's settlement account.

5. All eligible accounts must be in current status as of raffle draw date to be included in the raffle.
6. Each account number may win only once during the entire promo period.
7. Winners will be notified through registered mail and will be published in leading newspapers.
8. All employees of the Unibank, its subsidiaries, its advertising and promo agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity are disqualified to join this promo.
9. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
10. Taxes on prizes exceeding ₱10,000 will be shouldered by BPI Family Savings Bank.
11. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Savings Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

Promo runs from July 1 to November 30, 2004 only! Call 845-6888 or 89-100 Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com
Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center Nationwide.

For provincial inquiries, call our Business Centers: Dagupan (075) 522-0372 to 73 • San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-4672, 963-5524 • Lipa (043) 757-1000 to 02 • Cebu (032) 231-3395 / 3097 • Bacolod (034) 433-8032 to 33 • Iloilo (033) 337-0613 to 14 • Davao (082) 235-3558 to 60 • Cagayan de Oro (08822) 726-067 / 929

Apply for a Happy Family Housing Loan now and enjoy
low monthly amortization, fast approvals and expert loan advice.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

HAPPY FAMILY HOUSING LOAN
It's All in the Family!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211, Series of 2004.

BPI Asset Management leads, innovates, serves

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The Corporate and Institutional Portfolio Management is a specialized fund management service offered to corporations and institutions. Each account is assigned an account management specialist who attends to client-specific needs. Fund management of employee retirement/benefit funds, preneed/insurance companies funds, religious/educational institutions/foundations funds, and mutual funds fall under this category.

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The BPI Legacy is an innovation that the group is particularly proud of. It is, after all, the first tax-exempt long-term investment account there is. The BPI IRA, meanwhile, is the first long-term trust account made available to the retail market.

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The group implemented the automation of its Provident Fund Administration Service. Their clients also has access to their subsidiary ledgers in the comfort of their offices.

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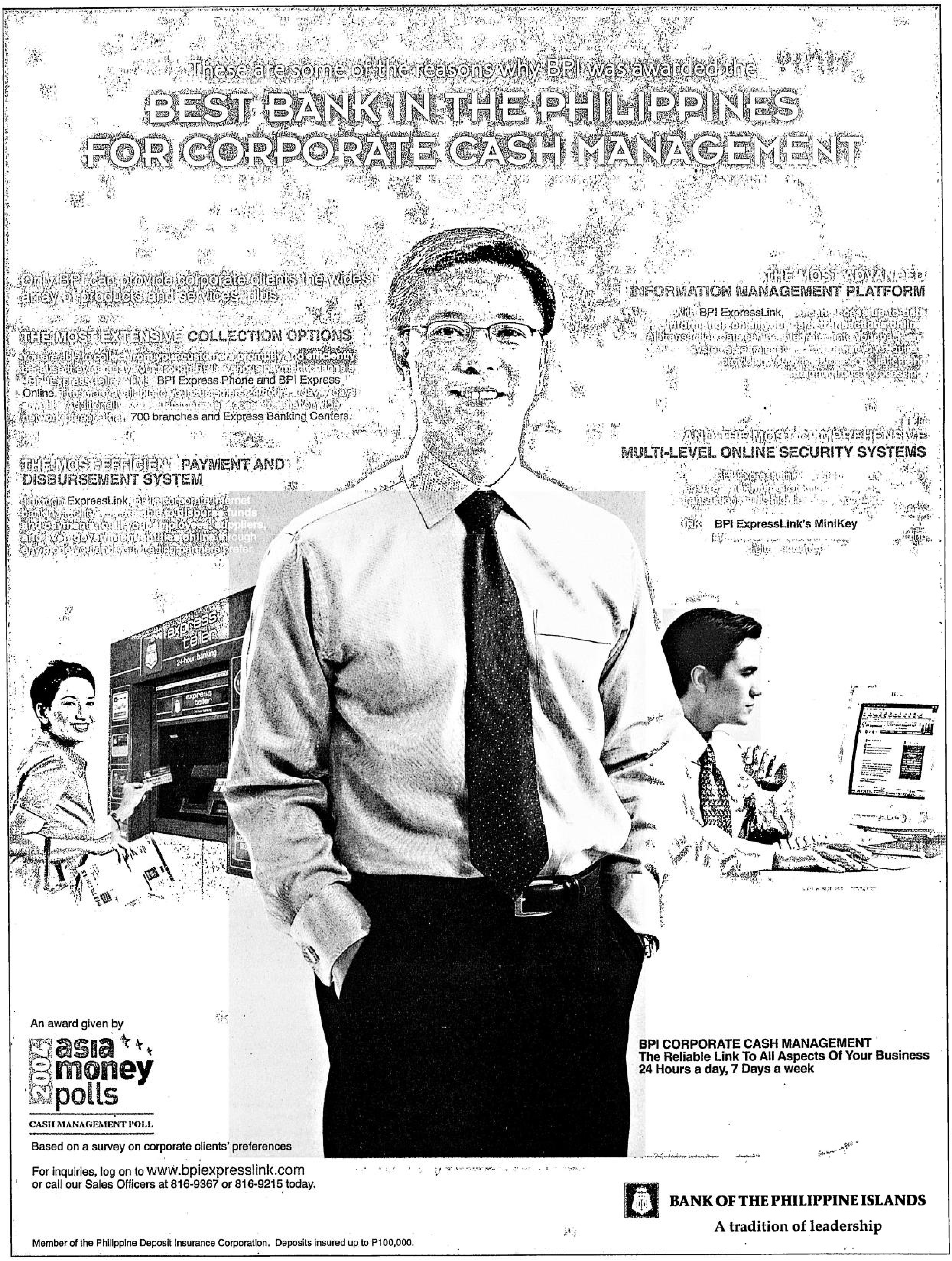

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JUNK art /E2

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Subsection Editor Lito Zulueta

Paths to ourselves

The pilgrimage is part of Filipino heritage and a means to finding our identity

I REMEMBER how, a few years back, our glossy magazines were filled with articles extolling the benefits of aerobics for mind and body. Today the obsession is with spas, yoga, and meditation.

Yes, I think more and more people are looking to find their inner selves through religion, therapy and even pilgrimages. This tells us something about the present-day search: the quest for a heightened self-awareness.

Gone are the days of sweaty aerobics! Hunky trainers have made way for skinny vegetarian gurus! Which do you prefer? Personally, I miss the hunks!

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

So, when I heard that my sister Patsy had walked hundreds of kilometers through the Spanish countryside to Santiago de Compostela, sleeping in the fields, eating badly, and suffering blisters as well as sore limbs, I panicked! She was either heading for martyrdom or moonlighting as a tourist guide!

Where did that leave me? Even when I learned that 2004 is a jubilee year for the Santiago pilgrimage and one gets a special certificate, I was still not that interested.

Actually I now recall my late husband traveling long distances on horseback to Santiago with a bunch of friends. At that time I don't think I understood what he got out of it. My brother-in-law, Lucas, recalls how those trips always gave him a feeling of inner peace.

People with whom I have discussed pilgrimages tell me how, amazingly, they often find their prayers answered and their problems solved. I, on the other hand, have always believed that if you have a problem you should face it head-on with hammers and lead pipes. Somehow, taking long, long walks didn't seem proactive enough.

Likewise, I felt that all the torture we were undergoing as we worked with crafts and cultural issues was enough atonement for several lifetimes. Hey, I can say this again and again: Cultural work in the Philippines is like walking a bumpy pilgrim's path—in high heels!

Pilgrim tradition

I eventually learned that spiritual pilgrimages are very much part of our own national traditions. A friend tells me that every year, on the night before May 1, tens of thousands of people clog the streets of Metro Manila as they trek to Antipolo.

Many of our Muslim brethren have a vow to visit Mecca at least once in their life. There is also the *lakaran* or pilgrimage to the sacred mountain of Banahaw, especially during the Holy Week.

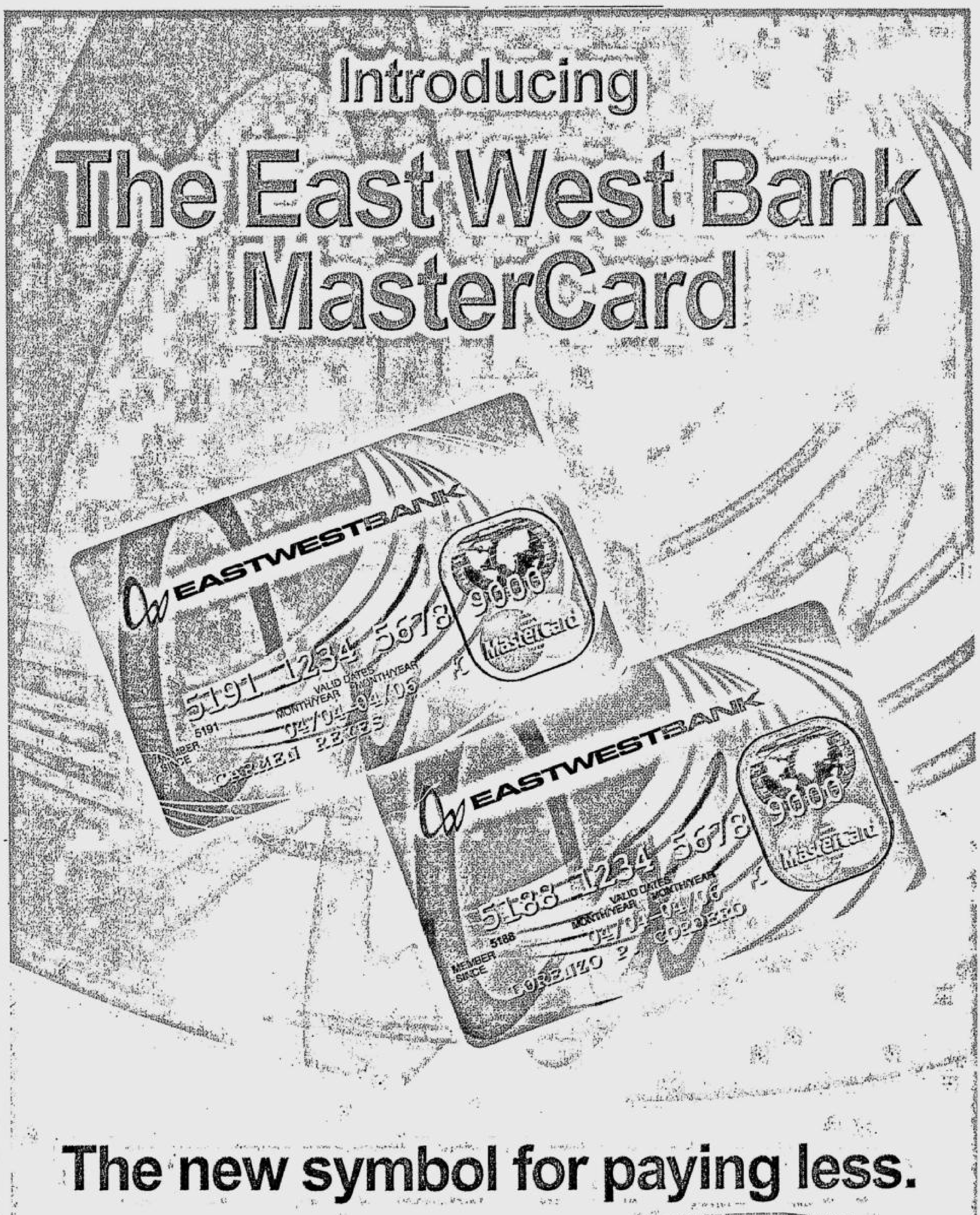
I was introduced to the works of Paulo Coelho by my friends Jacques and David. His first book, "The Pilgrimage," is all about his experiences walking to Santiago de Compostela.

Coelho notes that it is the road that will teach us lessons. He compares it to our objectives in life. He gives some practical advice for pilgrims: Learn to depend on people, travel light, move at your own pace and keep your goal in mind. He goes on to observe that these are principles that apply to our daily lives as well.

What really caught my attention (of course!) was when he likens our journey to a sexual encounter: "The caresses of foreplay, determine

PATHS/ E4

MY late husband Juan arriving on horseback at the Plaza de Obradoiro with my father-in-law.



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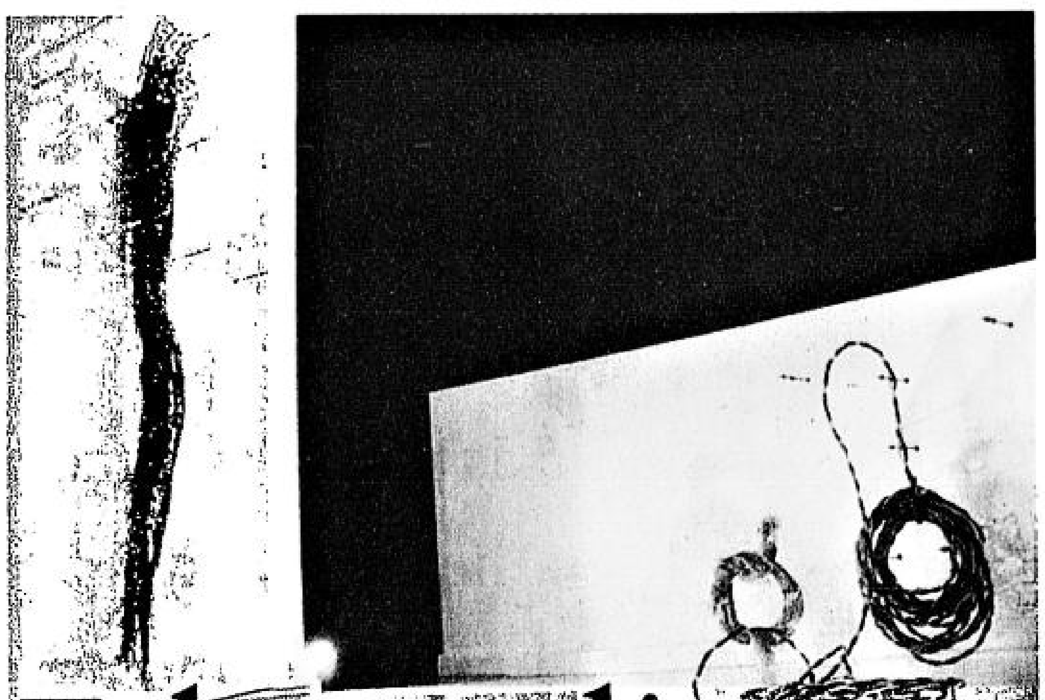
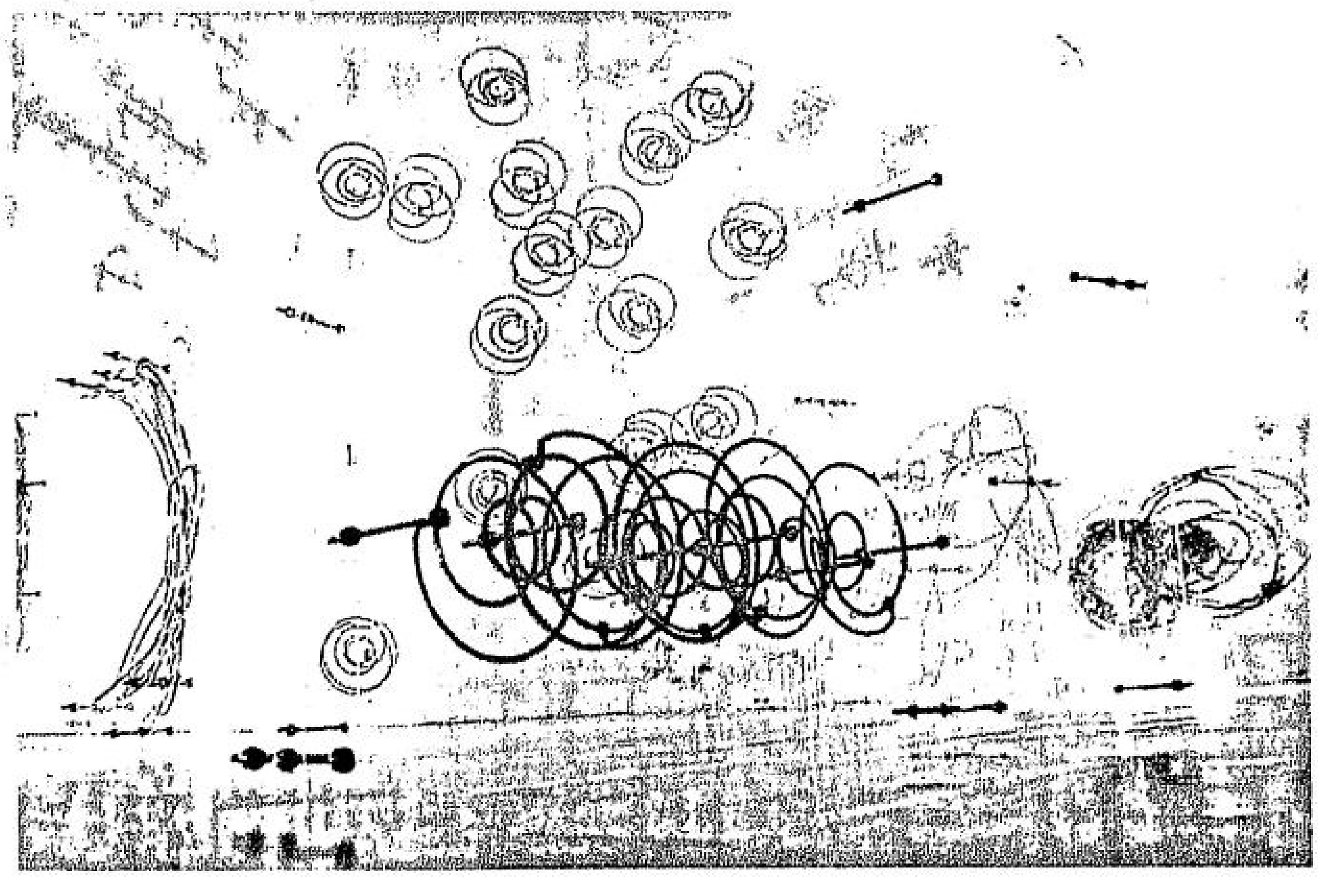




Ethereality from junk

By Constantino C. Tejero

IT IS surprising how exquisite art can come out of junk. It is all the more surprising how Eric de Leon Zamuco can handle it with such delicacy.

Junk transformed into a thing of beauty that's a joy to behold comprises the 15 pieces of sculptural installation in Zamuco's exhibit "Fine Line," until Aug. 10 in West Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

These are plexiglass sheets encasing various kinds of wires Zamuco has accumulated from the junkshops of Bicutan and Parañaque. Most of the pieces consist of two sheets set a few inches apart with the shaped wire in between. They are fixed with bolts and nuts and washers for stability.

The wires, thick or fine, of aluminum or copper, are either exposed or coated with rubber, chrome or nylon in white, black, gray, red, green, blue, brown, pink and rust. They are spiraling or cascading, looped or twisted, formed or arranged into what the artist calls "sculptural drawings."

Says the exhibit's info sheet: "Each type of wire demands a certain degree of control, as well as imagination in composing the whole picture." It is the "figuring out how to keep the wires steady yet visually fascinating" that challenges Zamuco's aesthetic sense and skill.

The resulting "spontaneous doodles encased in glass" may represent anything or nothing. A piece could be just plain abstraction or pattern, or it could be an allusion.

One of white-coated electrical wiring cut uniformly short and fixed protruding from one sheet looks like secondary roots of mangrove or stubs of hair.

And there's a lovely bonus to the visual design, too. The opaque wire between transparent plexiglass sheets, when lit from the front, casts a ghostly image on the white wall.

The spiraling bed springs, for instance, throw floating outlines of rosebuds. (The positioning of the spotlight determines the form of the image.) As the shadow is part of the artwork, this extension of the piece may be considered ephemeral art, like the wings of a butterfly.

Zamuco says his art has been inspired by the work of one artist in Vermont Studio Center, which he attended on a Freeman Fellowship two years ago. What he saw was a piece consisting of strands of human hair fixed on the wall with a nail.

In this exhibit, in fact, there appear references to that original vision. A clutch of wire forming a pastel cascade of green, blue, gray and pink could be alluding to long, long hair. A whorl of fine copper wire looks like a frizzy redhead.

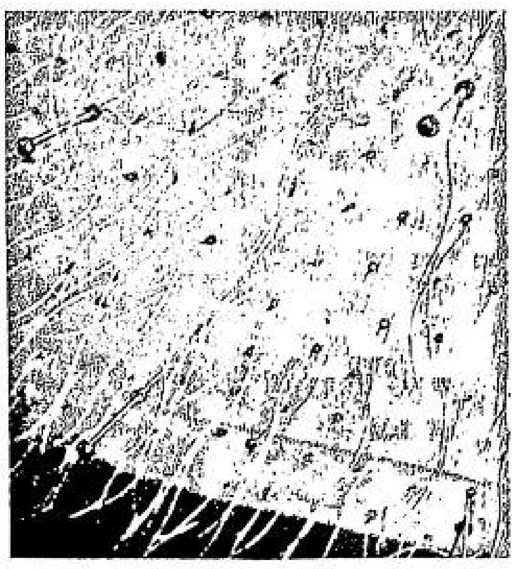
Zamuco has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Visual Communications, from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts. He received the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines last year.

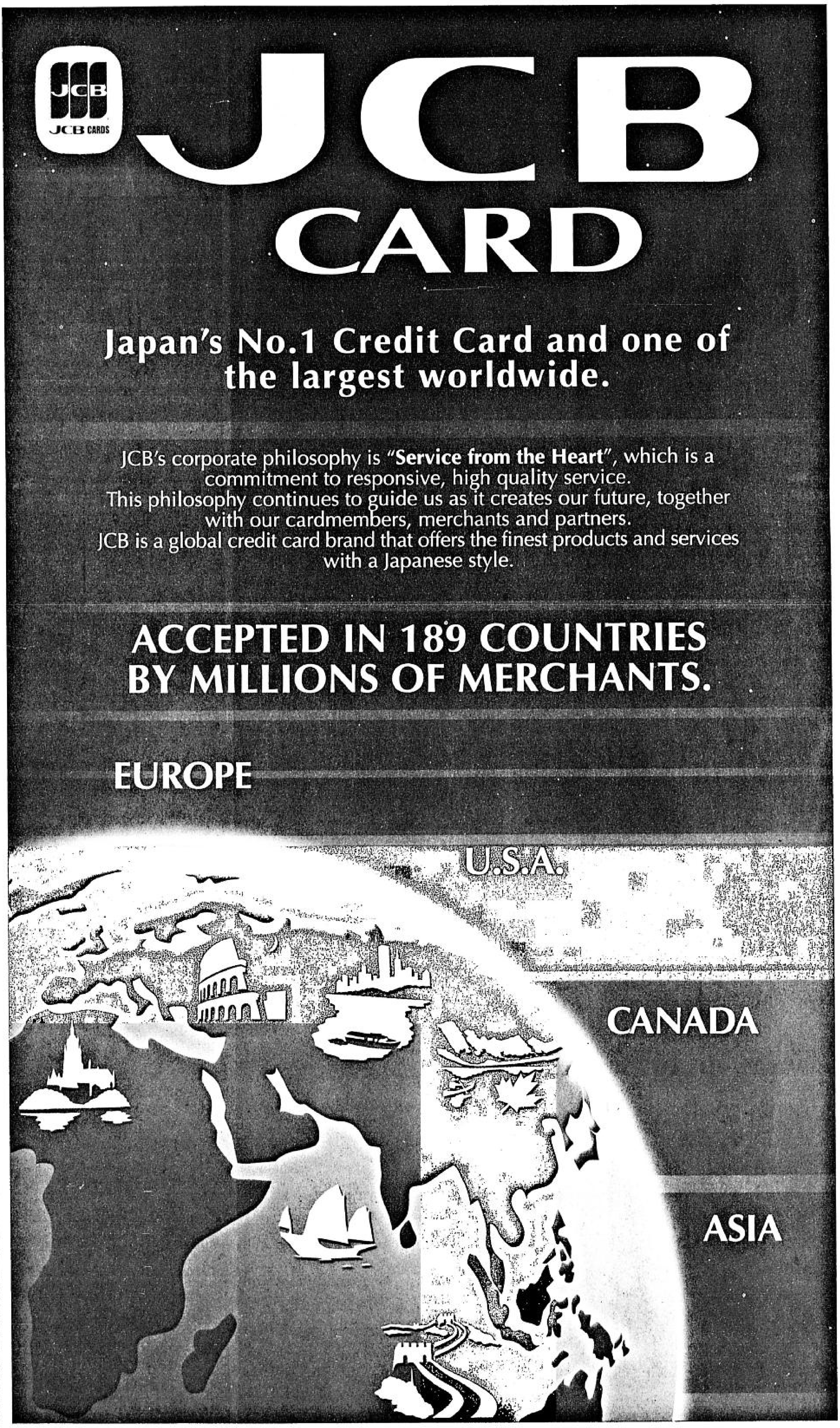
He acknowledges Bencab and Claro Ramirez as having been influential in his artmaking, the former for painting and the latter for sculpture. Ramirez helps him in the installing and lighting of his works.

Another favorite artist of his is Joseph Cornell.

His earliest mediums were watercolor and pen and ink, which he later blended with photographs. Now he seems comfortable working on any found object he can get his hands on: plexiglass, wire, photo emulsion, pinewood crates, polaroids, lamination films, aluminum flat bars, airplane windows, charred wood, lights.

He has exhibited these experimental pieces all over the world, from Finland to Inner Mongolia. A sure touch and a strong imagination should get him far.





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Bless the artist and the children

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

STEEPED in realism and neo-classical modernism, Caloy Gabuco has, however, found new inspiration in the enchanting world of children. An artist known for his trademark Mother and Child paintings, Gabuco has also ventured into abstraction; his abstract pieces in art competitions have been singled out for their minimalist orientation and masterly application of aquarelle.

With his mastery of the figure, coupled with his unwavering facility with watercolor, Gabuco has established a reputation as a leading contemporary artist who knows how to please his clientele while never forgetting to experiment.

In the show of recent works organized by Choice Expression Gallery, "Masdan ang mga Bata," (on view until today at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel's Mandaluyong Function Room), Gabuco has mounted three dozen pieces in watercolor, depicting young boys and girls in creative play.

While the subjects may not readily resemble the looks of average Filipino children, such as those of Toti Cerda, they nonetheless strike a familiar chord with their lively presence; they are endowed with dark, round eyes, pinkish cheeks and innocent, cherubic faces.

Indeed, one subject is cast in the role of a cherub, wittily titled "Bantay-Bata," in which the winged tyke is shown afloat on a sea of clouds and a white dove perched on his left hand, in the manner of Botticelli's angels, parlaying his role as young guardian of the heavens.

Gabuco's childlike predisposition to fantasy has served him well in this show. While there are solitary figures such as a child posing like a contemporary hunk in "Munting Valentino," with his shorts unbuttoned around the waist, the dominant image in the show is of children in gatherings of twos, threes and even fives, enhancing the atmosphere of mirthful creative interaction.

Gabuco becomes playfully irreverent in scenes depicting childhood reveries, as in "Tatlong Prinsesita," with three girls in summery white frocks in a tryst to gather wild flowers, and in "Musmosikeros" (a pun on *musmos* and *musikero*), with three boys gamely playing various musical instruments in a mood of irrepressible glee.

Not all the images revolve around childhood games and fantasies. Showcasing his serious mien, Gabuco has a number of works that reunite two generations, the grand matriarch looking regal in her seat, and her three grandchildren huddled close to her, the smallest one in the act of putting the old woman's hand on his forehead.

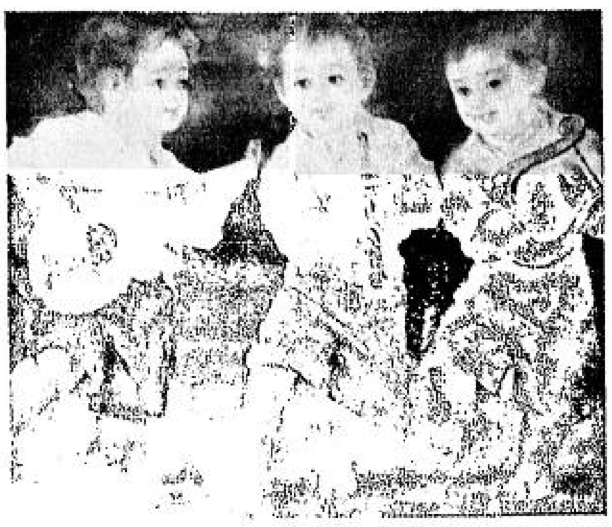
Gabuco's detractors may raise their eyebrows at the artist's penchant for illustration, perhaps unaware that his genre and medium precisely lend themselves to this merging of the natural world and the idealized world.

Lest we forget, Gabuco is first and foremost a portraitist who has strayed into other genres, including abstraction, and it is to his credit that he has become quite adept in watercolor. Perhaps he has become one of the best in the medium.

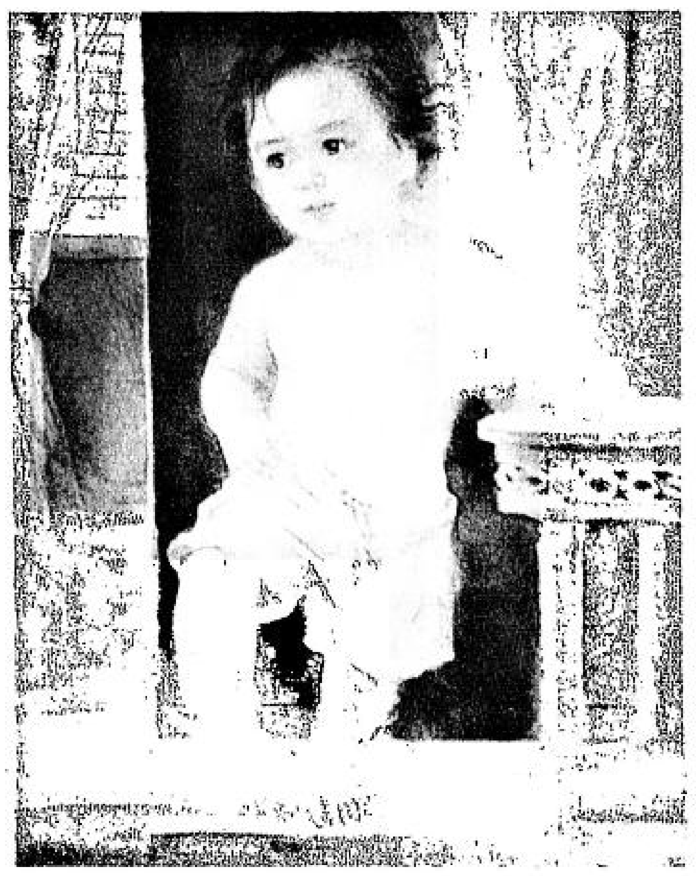
"Masdan ang mga Bata" will run at Le Souffle in Ortigas Center from Aug. 3-31. Call 0917-8941405 or 0917-8943293.

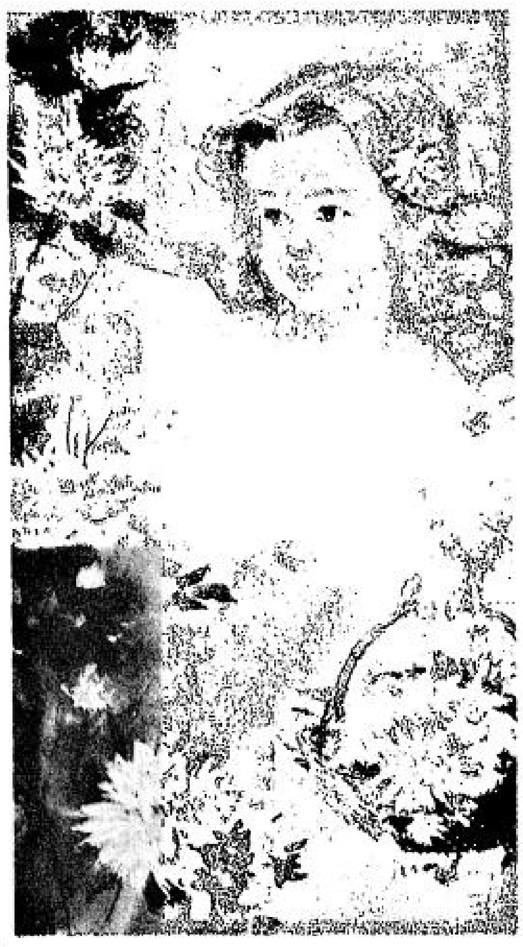
E-mail feedback to gdormiendo@yahoo.com

"MUSMOSIKEROS"

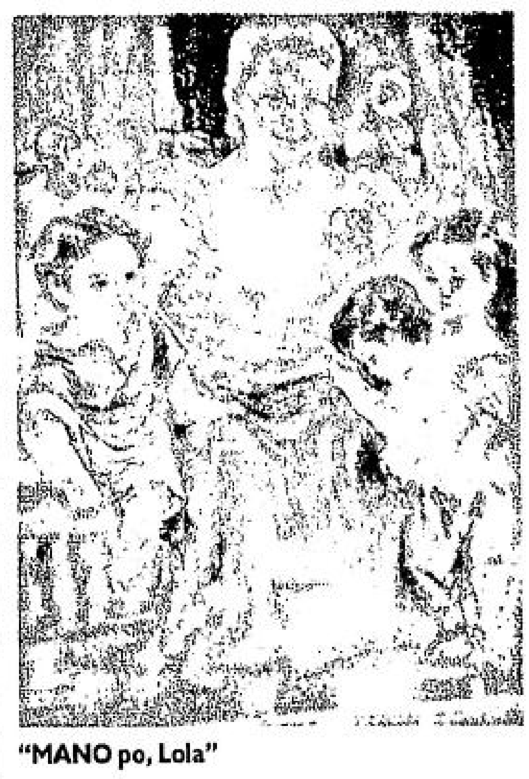


"MUNTING Valentino"





"MUNTING Diyosa"



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VISUAL ARTS

Anading at Mag:Net

VIDEO art and process-oriented art production comprise the works in "Transient Body," Ronald Anading's exhibit at Mag:Net Gallery (ABS-CBN Compound, QC) starting Aug. 3. In four installations and several paintings, Anading explores processes conveying fragmentation, simultaneity, and transient sites and happenings. Curated by Roberto Chabet.

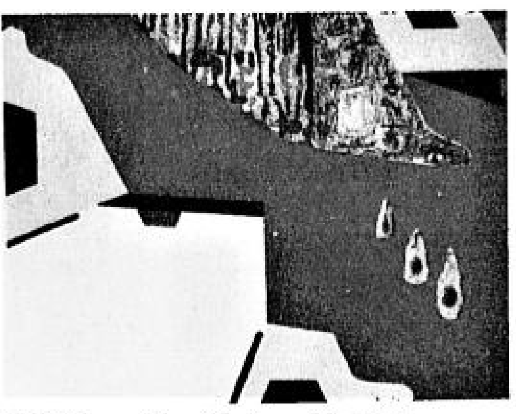
ARTS UNLIMITED features "Mary, Queen of the Family" until Aug. 13 at the 6th floor of Rustan's Makati. The exhibit celebrates the opening of the Marian year on Aug. 22.

GALERIA de las Islas mounts "Coast to Coast to Coast" until Aug. 14 at the third floor, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit features the works of international artists Mark Shellshear, Maki, Tony Twigg, Mizue Honaga-Vidal, Henri Eteve and Joseph Gickmai Kundun. The works include acrylic, pastel, watercolor, pen and ink, charcoal and sculpture in wood, stone and metal.

THE BOSTON Gallery features the works of Reymar Gacutan, Erwin Leaño, Jim Orencio and Jose John Santos III. All four exhibits run until Aug. 25. Boston Gallery is at 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC.

SYLVIA Mendez Ventura will launch her solo exhibit "Floral Medley" on Aug. 3-13 at Galerie Y, L/4, Megamall A. The show presents flowers in watercolor.

GALLERIA Duemila features Roberto Robles' "Rekindling—47 Compositions of Colors and Forms in Relief Space" on Aug. 3-17 at L/4, Megamall A. The exhibit showcases large- to small-scale works in acrylic on canvas which replicate the processes and principles of sculptural relief.



"OOZ from Mars," by Jucar Raquepo

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines will unveil "Danas: Diskarte," Aug. 5-Sept. 5 in Small Gallery. The show features the works of Edson Armenta and Jose Tence Ruiz.

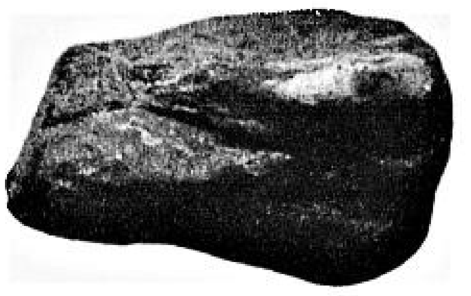
PINTÔ Art Gallery features two exhibits, until Aug. 8 at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grandheights, Antipolo, Rizal. "Eternity" by Lino Severino is a show of paintings and collages. "Celebration" tackles the theme of renewal, positive change and happiness. Participating artists are Juan Alcazaren, Gus Albor, Piet Bolipata, Norberto Carating, Eng Chan, Boy Domingo, Nanette Escalante, Tina Fernandez, Sandra Fabie-Gfeller, Jinky Lorenzo-Reynoso, Ferdie Montemayor, Jim Orencio, Stella Rojas, Popo San Pascual, Baby Valencia and Roy Veneracion.

THE NATIONAL Museum will hold "Lecture Demonstration on Insect Collection and Preservation with Emphasis on Edible Insects and Preparation" on Aug. 18-19 in the conference room, 4/F, National Museum Main Building, Padre Burgos Drive, Ermita, Manila. The workshop aims to make participants aware of Philippine edible insects, their nutritional value, and their preservation. Reservations needed. Call 5270178.

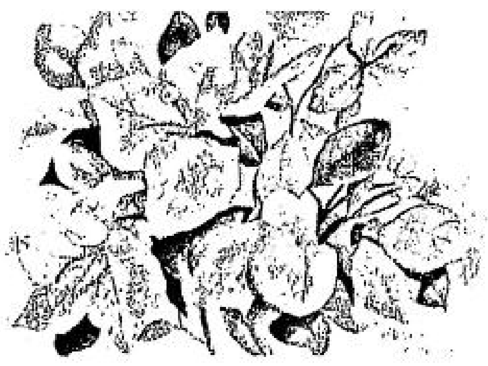
JUCAR Raquepo unveils his most recent series of abstract paintings in oil on canvas in "Space Invaders." The exhibit runs on Aug. 9-23 at Liongoren Gallery, 111 New York cor Stanford Sts., Cubao, QC.

DONADA Art Gallery presents "Continued Still," featuring the works of Lea Lim and Elah Tolentino and guest artist Dan Raralio. Lim's works evoke feelings of stillness and motion. Tolentino showcases ink works on paper. Raralio presents sculptures. The show can be viewed on Aug. 14-Sept. 14 at Rm. 2618 G/F, RL Building, Donada cor. P. Ocampo Sts., Malate, Manila.

LETTY Tagal, Justice Omar Ain, Dr. Rolly Tuano and Vicente Formoso open "Cuatro Amigos," an exhibit by Malang, Manny Baldemor, Al Perez and Julius Limpe in Asia Art Gallery at Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



"FROM Stone to Mountain," by Ronald Anading



"BOUGAINVILLE," by Sylvia Mendez Ventura

Paths to . . .

From page E1

the intensity of orgasm." All other thoughts aside (hmmm…), what I think he is saying is that the satisfaction we derive from our pilgrimages depends on how hard we work at it. Or something like that.

Reviewing all this, I began to feel anxious that pilgrimage-less Bea may be the only one left on the other side of the Gate come Judgement Day. I had this feeling that no matter how many *ternos*, *banigs*, or baskets I brought out, St. Peter would remain unamused. I would still be barred from entry.

Worried now for my destiny, I decided to check out Santiago de Compostela. Please note that while others walked, rode horses or even wheelchairs, I took the car. Give me a break. Do you really expect me to walk all those kilometers and write a column?

The town gets its name from the story that a farmer was once led to a certain field by a star. Buried in the field were the bones of Santiago (or St. James), the patron saint of Spain. This is how we get Santiago de Compostela, translated as St. James of the Star-Field.

Incredible cathedral

One arrives at this sacred site after having negotiated a long path that winds through wild but beautiful country. One also passes by many buildings of different styles, from the Romanesque to the Baroque.

The whole route has, in fact, been inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List.

Upon reaching Santiago, my eyes were drawn to the incredible cathedral.

It was truly an impressive building. Entering it, I saw the famous giant incense burner. It was swung from side to side by five men as it is so heavy.

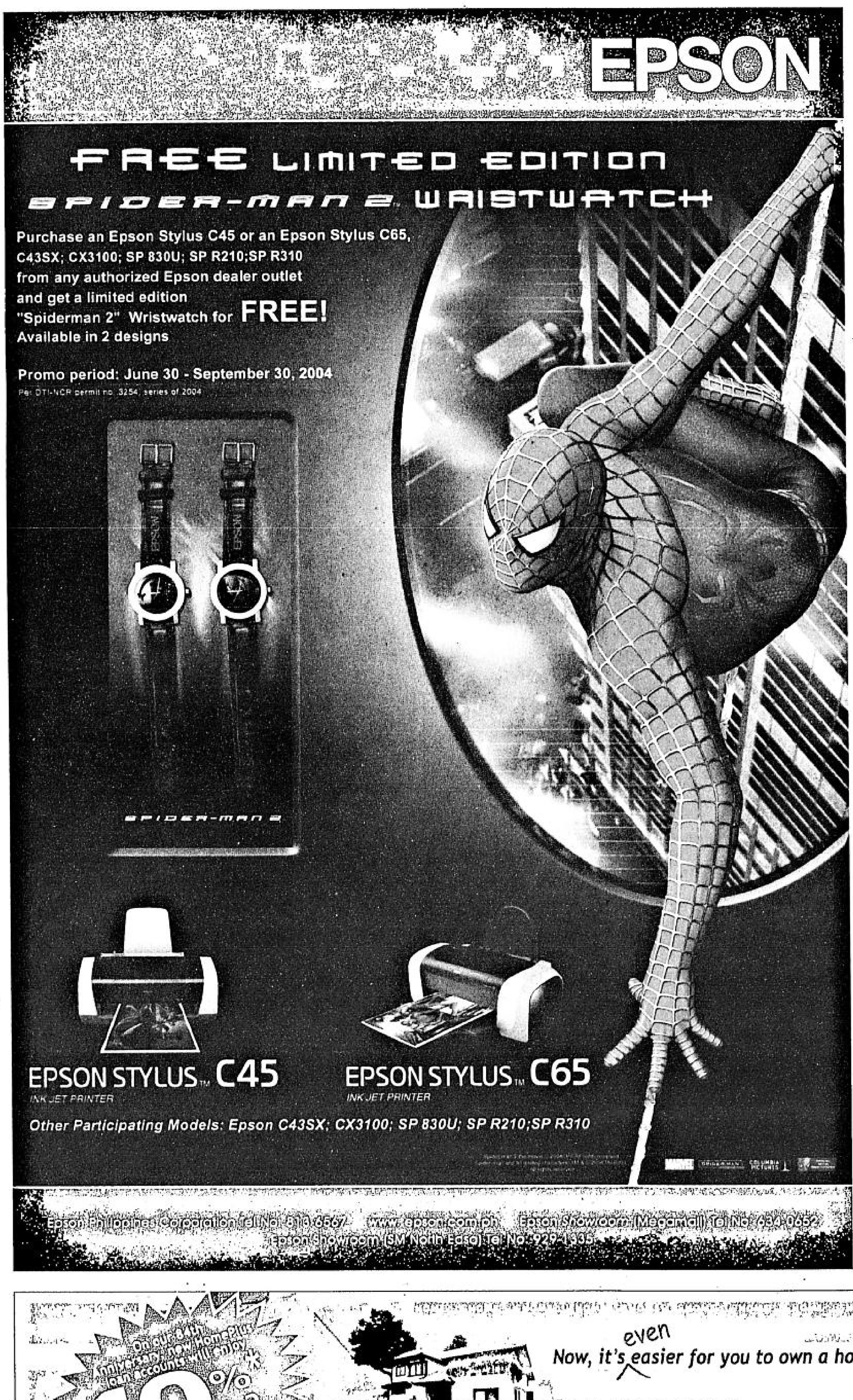
Aside from lending an atmosphere of solemnity, the incense also had a practical purpose in the old days. You can imagine that walking all those miles may do wonders for your soul, but it certainly doesn't help your body odor! Very likely, the smell of unwashed pilgrim, magnified thousands of times, got in the way of meditation!

Sitting in the shadows of the great cathedral, I fell to contemplating many things. I even started thinking about our country. I couldn't help but get this sense that we were all pilgrims together. We were all walking this path, trying to find ourselves. I have often heard foreigners observe that many of us Filipinos lack insights into our identities. As our scholars point out, this is precisely why our arts are so important: They give us paths to understanding who we are.

As I sat in the church, looking at the pilgrims coming in, I noted their warm smiles, their glowing faces. And I began to feel a strange sense of being excluded. I felt lost and alone. My feeling of emptiness was so intense that it finally helped me understand something: I felt excluded because I had not been a pilgrim, I had not walked the paths, I had not earned my salvation. Strangely this insight cleared up my doubts. The intensity of my sense of exclusion finally convinced me of the power of the pilgrimage. There was definitely something there that no words could explain. I told myself that I too had to find the time to walk the path to Santiago someday. Or maybe I should try the journey to Antipolo or even Banahaw.

Reflecting on all of this, I cannot help but make connections with our national situation. I sense so many people around me who are searching for something. Maybe what we seek is personal. But maybe what we are all seeking is a sense of what we have lost as a nation. And when I asked a friend how we can move forward, I got this answer: by understanding what it is that we are excluded from, what it is that we do not yet understand about the many stories of our country, the many lives of our people. I guess only then can we love ourselves again and progress down that long winding road to our destination.

ONE of the many beautiful villages one passes on the Camino de Santiago



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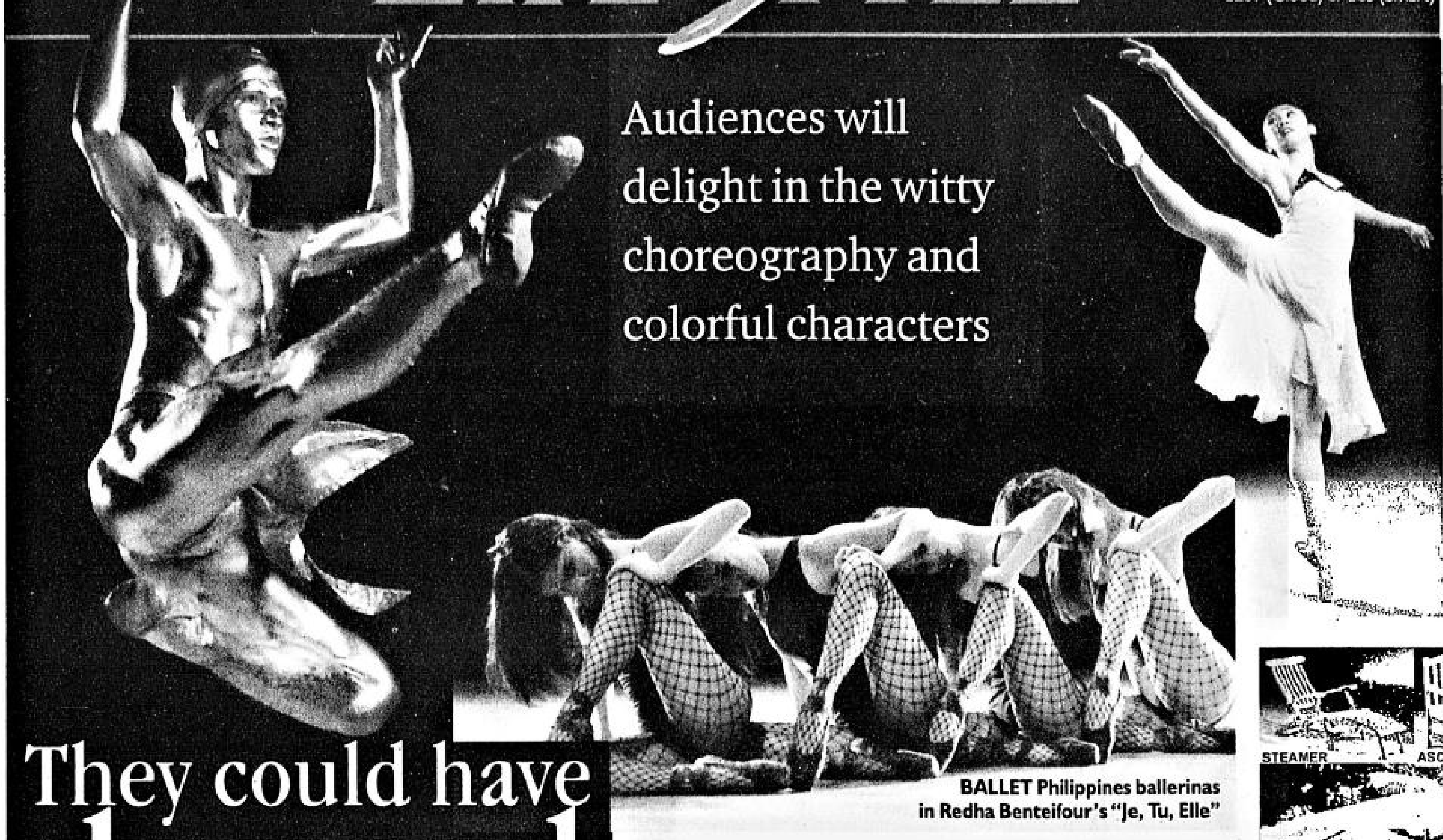

RUBEN de Dios in Petipa's "Bronze Idol"

BALLET Philippines ballerinas in Redha Benteifour's "Je, Tu, Elle"

SOLOIST Mica Bernas in William Carter's "Bach Concerto"

Audiences will delight in the witty choreography and colorful characters

They could have danced all season

By Joyce C. Abaño

THE GOAL of Ballet Philippines (BP) is to produce more ballet repertoire that offers great variety and make restructured older ballets coexist with contemporary works. That goal is evident in its 35th-season lineup.

BP's emerald season formally opens Aug. 6 with "BP on Pointe," consisting of choreographies that incorporate the use of pointe or toe shoes. It will feature four short dance pieces for the first half and a one-act ballet for the other half.

For the show, choreographers have experimented with both new and traditional forms and styles, extending the dancers' technical and dramatic range.

The four pieces are dances based on jazz and contemporary dances that grew in popularity and have developed more fully through the years.

In the first half, the audience will be shown four 12- to 15-minute dance pieces—William Carter's "Bach Concerto," a three-set dance piece inspired by Johann Sebastian Bach's Concerto No. 5 in F Minor; Alden Lugnasin's "Accidental Swans," a contemporary pas de deux, inspired by the classical full-length ballet "Swan Lake"; the legendary Marius Petipa's "Bronze Idol," which is the demanding man's variation on the classical ballet "La Bayadere"; Redha Benteifour's "Je, Tu, Elle," a sensuous all-female piece that shows a woman's feisty and tenacious character underneath the alluring and genteel façade.

The other half is a one-act ballet called "Ang Pilya," a Filipinized version of the French classical ballet and an audience favorite, the humorous "La Fille Mal Gardée" (The Ill-Guarded Girl).

As was in the original classic "La Fille Mal Gardée," "Ang Pilya"

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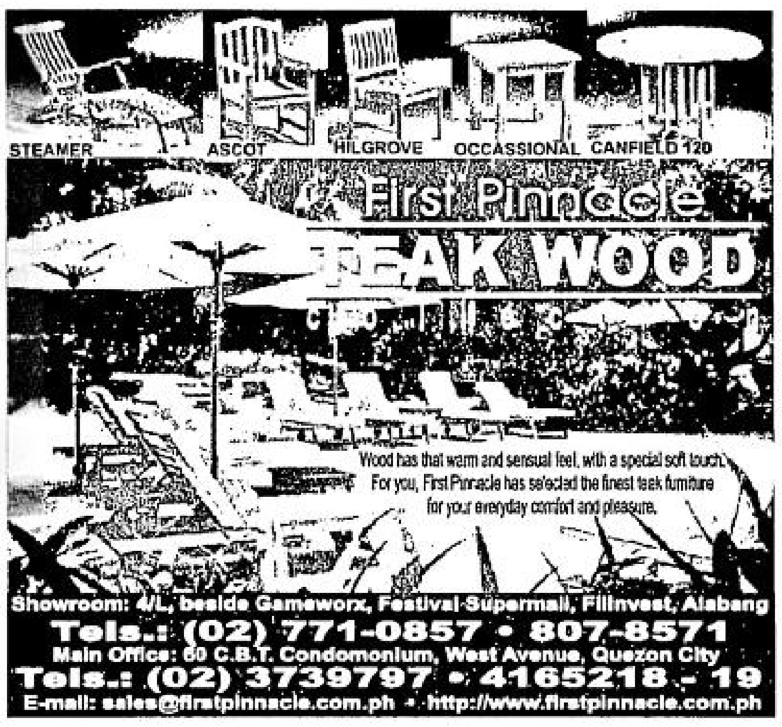

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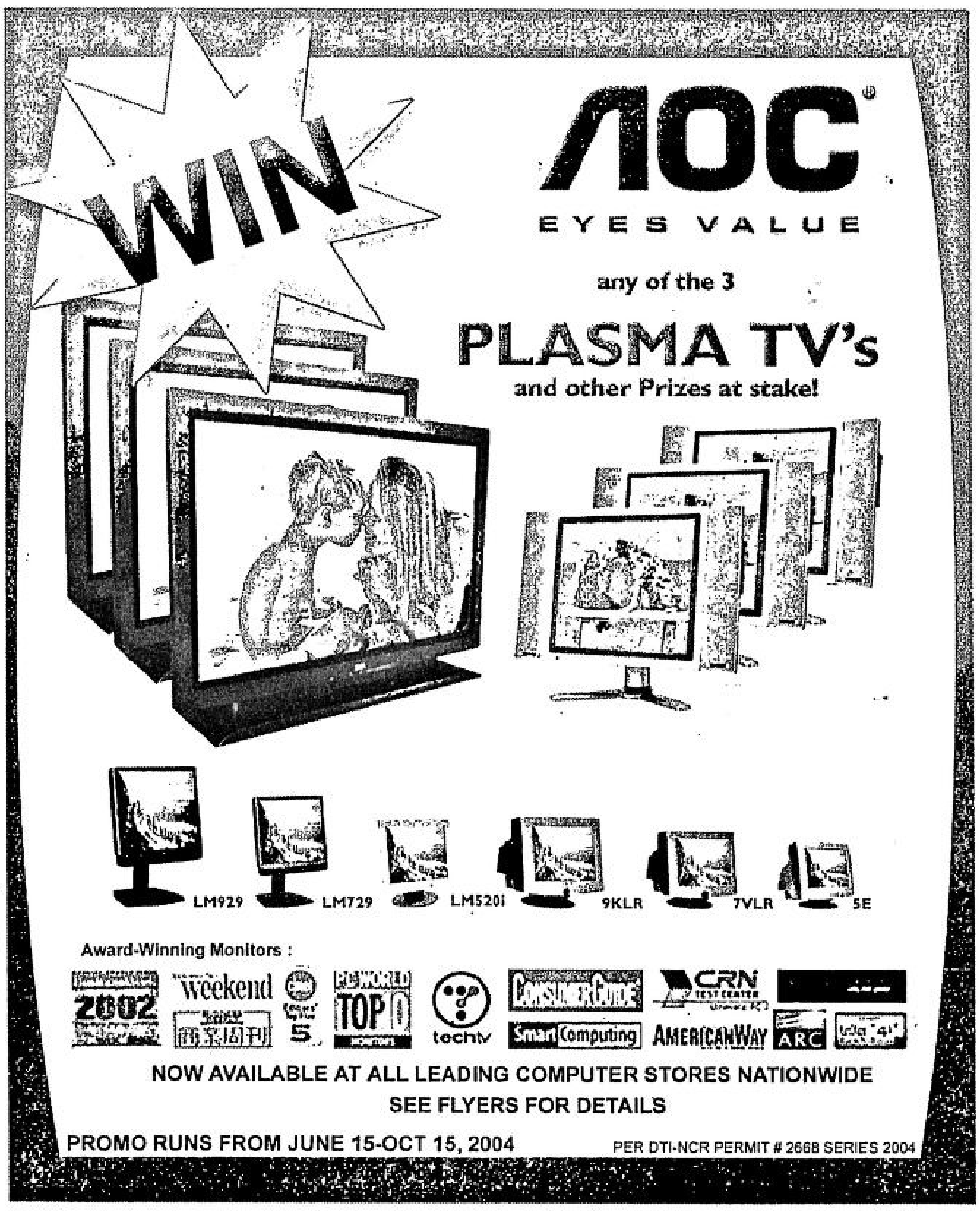

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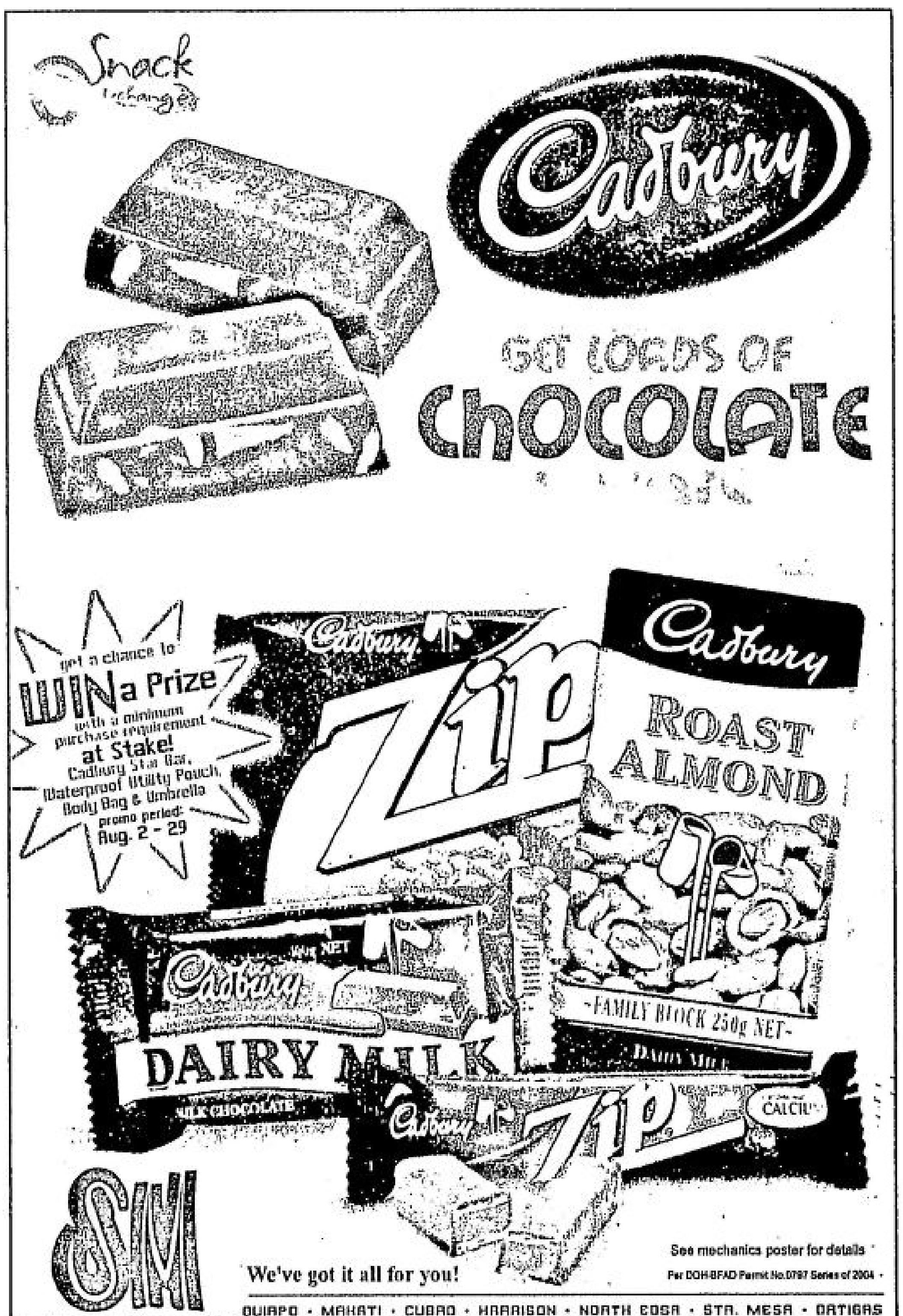

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World-renowned Spanish choir in Manila

WORLD-renowned Ars Nova, a choir from Plasencia, Spain, will perform in two concerts in the Philippines titled "Voces Para Baseco" for the benefit of malnourished children from Baseco. The concerts are presented by Spain-based NGO La Aldea in partnership with the City of Manila and Instituto Cervantes.

Ars Nova will have shows at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College at 6 p.m. on Aug. 5, and San Agustin Church at 7 p.m. on Aug. 6. Tickets are available at SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Manila, SM Southmall and SM North Edsa.

Ars Nova will have promotional tours at the 2/F lobby of The Podium at 7 p.m. on Aug. 2, and the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza at 6 p.m. on Aug. 4, Wednesday.

Tickets will also be available at The Podium and Shangri-La during the short performances of the choir in both venues.

The Ars Nova choir was founded in Plasencia, Spain, in 1990 by D. Jose Neria. Since then, the choir has had several international tours in Mexico, Cuba, Egypt, Italy and in different regions in Spain. The choir represented the City of Plasencia during the Universal Exhibit in Sevilla, Spain, (Expo '92). It was also the main performer in several concerts promoted by the European Academy "Yuste" as well as in concerts in honor of the Royal family of Spain.

'Pinocchio' at Greenbelt

PINOCCHIO: Music, humor, spectacle and color

REPERTORY Philippines' Children's Theater opens its 2004 production, "Pinocchio," at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage on Aug. 7.

In its 13 years of existence, the RCT has provided theater in English for thousands of children who, with their parents and teachers, have enjoyed the music, humor, spectacle and color of well-mounted productions and the performances of young actors.

"Pinocchio," written by Jim Eiler based on the book by Carlo Collodi with music by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy, which received a special Emmy Award from the Television Arts and Sciences for the CBS Network production, tells the timeless story of a little wooden puppet, who, because of his father Geppetto's love and with the help of the kind "Blue Fairy," becomes a "real, live boy." Playing the title role are Rep Children's Theater stalwarts Liesl Batucan, Rem Zamora, Cara Barredo and Bianca Morris. Featured actors include Bonggoy Manahan and Oliver Usison as Geppetto; Arnel Carrion and Meynard Peñalosa as Antonio the narrator. Joy Virata directs and Jaime del Prado choreographs.

"Pinocchio" will have special subscriber performances on Aug. 7 and Sep. 11 at 10:30 a.m., and Aug.15 and Sept. 19 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are also available for the performances on Aug. 12, 21 and 28 at 10:30 a.m.; Aug. 22 at 2:30 p.m.; Aug. 28 and 31 at 1:30 p.m. and Aug. 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets for these performances are P250 for the orchestra and P200 for the balcony. Tickets for these performances as well as for other performances until December are available at the Rep office at the Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension and at all ticket outlets in Ayala Center. Weekend performances are at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.

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What is Tension Headache and what can you do about it?

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In today's complex, highly-competitive and super fast world, where everything was needed yesterday and we never seem to be able to catch up with our work or studies, headaches arising from tension have become the most common type of headache. Up to 80 % of all adults experience tension headache, affecting their productivity and their quality of life.

Tension headache is characterized by a constant, dull, squeezing pain (non pulsating) or feeling of uncomfortable pressure in the neck, temples, forehead or around the head which typically lasts from 30 minutes up to a week.

Episodic or Chronic

Tension headaches may be episodic or chronic. Episodic is common and does not require medical treatment beyond over-the-counter pain-relievers along with rest and relaxation. Chronic headache – one that occurs more days than not for a period of six months – should be evaluated by a physician.

Tension headaches can occur at any age. Chronic rarely occurs in children, developing mostly between the ages of 20 and 40. Women are more frequently diagnosed with chronic tension headache than men.

Causes of Tension Headache

Tension headache results from prolonged contraction of the muscles in the head, neck or upper back. Such excessive muscle contraction can occur in response to a wide variety of physical, chemical or emotional factors.

Some experts believe that tension headache is a milder form of migraine, which is thought to be due, in part, to an inherited biochemical imbalance in the brain. Others believe that psychological factors, such as depression and anxiety, play a significant role in the development of chronic tension headache.

Among the factors that have been linked to tension headache are:

- Poor posture
- Awkward alignment of head and neck during sleep
- Stress or anxiety
- Anger or interpersonal conflict
- Depression or grief
- Overexertion
- Head, neck or upper back muscle fatigue
- Eye strain
- Alcohol use
- Frequent grinding or clenching of teeth

Prevention and Treatment

Episodic tension headache can be prevented by:

- Stretching exercises: Activity involving prolonged use or stationary positioning of the arms or upper body should be interrupted by briefly stretching neck and shoulder muscles at least every 20 to 30 minutes.
- Simple Postural Adjustments: If episodic tension headache occurs upon awakening or interferes with sleep, proper bedding can help align the spine and head.
- Muscle Relaxation Techniques:Diaphragmatic breathing or other muscle relaxation methods, such as those available on self-help tapes, are useful when practiced regularly.

Over-the-counter (OTC) analgesics are usually adequate to treat the mild to moderate pain of episodic tension headache.

Medications used to stop chronic tension headache pain include anti-depressants, tricyclics and non-streoidal, anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs.

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One such NSAID is mefenamic acid. It works by blocking the action of a substance in the body called cyclo-oxygenase, which is an enzyme that is involved in the production of various chemicals in the body, some of which are known as prostaglandins.

Prostaglandins are produced in response to injury or certain diseases and cause pain, swelling and inflammation. As mefenamic acid stops the production of prostaglandins, it is effective at relieving pain and inflammation arising from tension headaches as well as other common body aches and pains such as muscle pain, toothache and menstrual pain. However, if one's headache is severe or persistent, he should consult a doctor.

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A season of cutting-edge plays

THE PHILIPPINE Educational Theater Association is 37 years old and will soon move to its new home, the Peta Theater Center and School. Construction begins at 5 Sunnyside Drive (behind the Quezon City Sports Club) this month.

While its home is being built, Peta continues to bring to the public cutting-edge productions.

Opening the season is "ASL... Please" by Palanca award-winning playwright Liza Magtoto, with direction by Maribel Legarda. The play tells the story of a young girl who hides behind the anonymity of a chat name, losing her true sense of identity in the process. "ASL... Please" runs Sept. 16-18 and 23-25 at SM Centerpoint Cinema 1.

The second play is Rene Villanueva's "Hans Christian Andersen Must Be Filipino" (translated and with additional English dialogues by Nicolas Pichay), a production that advocates children's rights. It speaks of the journey of the famous Danish writers' characters to the streets and slums of Manila.

"HCA Must Be Filipino" will be staged in Fukuoka, Japan, in September, after which it will be featured as Peta's official entry to the National Theater Festival (NTF) and will have two performances at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Nov. 18.

After the NTF, the play goes on tour in the Visayas from November to December, visiting key cities such as Cebu, Dumaguete, Tacloban, Tagbilaran, Bacolod and Iloilo.

A gathering of children and youth in the arts happens in February 2005 in Intramuros, Manila, with "Dula-Daluyan '05: The Creative Young Minds." The three-day theater festival-conference-workshop explores different themes and issues that are closer to the hearts of children and young people in dramatic, dance and musical performances.

Capping the season is "Pinoy Wannabes," four one-act plays written by Ned Trespeces, to be directed by Soxie Topacio. The production discusses the different aspects of the life of young, working (and non-working) Filipinos.

All year-round, Peta, through its School of People's Theater, also offers theater arts, team-building, community-building and other specially customized workshops to school and community-based organizations and corporations, both for children and adults.

Call 4100822, 7249637, 0917-5394707, 0917-8154567 or 0918-9354166. E-mail mpr@petatheater.com or petampro@yahoo.com.

PETA will soon move to its new home in Quezon City

PRINCIPAL dancers Kris-belle Paclibar and Clark Rambuyon in Alden Lugnasin's "Accidental Swans"

They could have danced all . . .

From page F1

is a romantic comedy ballet with a rustic setting, but this time the dancers will be wearing traditional Filipino costumes like the *kimona* and *patadyong*. The debt to Filipino folk dance is seen in the corps de ballet work and several incorporation of Philippine folk dances like "Maglalatik."

Next in BP's production lineup is "BP Goes Global." The dancers will be presenting pieces performed by BP dancers abroad. Dances by foreign choreographers will also be featured.

Executive director Ida Beltran Lucilla says BP wants to include the Indonesian piece "Before the Coming of the Dark," but they're still negotiating with the right for a license to perform it in October as one of "BP Goes Global's" eight dance pieces.

In December will be the full-length ballet "Peter Pan," choreographed by Conrad Villaco, with a more contemporary feel and a more prominent Tinkerbelle having her own corps de ballet.

BP closes the season with neo-classical moves in "BP's Neo-Filipino at 15" in February next year.

Audiences will certainly be delighted with the witty choreography and host of colorful characters as Ballet Philippines celebrates its 35th season with new pieces perfect for the entire family.

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Dynamic arts scene in Singapore

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

SINGAPORE—In this island state, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and the National Arts Council (NAC) complement one another.

The arts here are considered not just "food for the soul" but a big source of employment.

STB says the arts, entertainment and sports events have an annual turnover of over $800 million, employing 11,500 people in over 1,300 establishments.

The number of paying audiences has also increased over the years. Last year alone, ticket buyers for various arts events crossed the one-million mark, with 5,177 performances and 551 visual arts exhibitions.

Observes National Arts Council officer Lim Neo Chian: "In this challenging times, a new breed of tourists has emerged. Like pilgrims, they go in search of a destination's distinctive arts and culture. Our multi-cultural legacy, vibrant arts scene and world-class infrastructure draw them to Singapore again and again."

Chian is right. During the latest edition of the Singapore Arts Festival, tourists came in droves to watch cellist Yo Yo Ma, Korean diva Sumi Jo, Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli.

Teaming up with the STB to harness the full potentials of the arts as tourism come-on is the NAC, which has embarked on a massive arts education program on top of organizing various national arts competitions and administering arts grants and scholarships.

General and training grants totaled $7.2 million last year.

A New Media Arts fund was also introduced to encourage collaboration between the conventional arts and other disciplines.

Artists starting out are given arts housing scheme and a 90 percent subsidy on market rentals. In 2002 alone, the NAC reports that it has housed 100 arts organizations, 32 artists and one institution across 41 properties.

THE ARTS management group of Singapore's National Arts Council headed by Ms Elaine Ng (first from left), deputy director of Arts Capability Development

Says NAC chair Liu Thai Ker: "The arts not only provide employment and enhance Singapore as a tourist destination; they are also a catalyst for the creative energy that enlarges cultural industry and fuels economic growth."

The much more enlivened arts scene in Singapore serve other purposes other than employment and improving the state's per capita income.

Notes NAC adviser Rosemary Wang: "We live at a frenetic pace in Singapore but the arts, when shared with family or loved ones or even appreciated in a moment of solitude, can add a new contemplative dimension to our lives."

Here and there

The new season of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra opens on Sept. 24 with American cellist Stephen Framil as soloist. The program includes Shostakovich's Festive Overture and Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2, Op. 27. Russian violinist Anastacia Chebotareva returns Oct. 22 as soloist in Tchaikovsky's D Major Concerto, Op. 35.

National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya) winner Chino Gutierrez, who is now based in Germany, got one of only two scholarships in the Musikhochschule (State Academy of Music). More than a hundred aspirants from different countries auditioned and it went to the youngest—the Filipino violin prodigy.

PIANIST Oliver Salonga with Rosemarie Arenas

Oliver Salonga in farewell tour

OLIVER Salonga, two-time first prize winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya), will have his farewell national tour on Aug. 5-21. He will leave for the United States to resume his studies at Lynn University where he is a full scholar.

Salonga will be heard at UST Conservatory of Music on Aug. 5, at St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City on Aug. 9, and at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank on Aug. 21 .

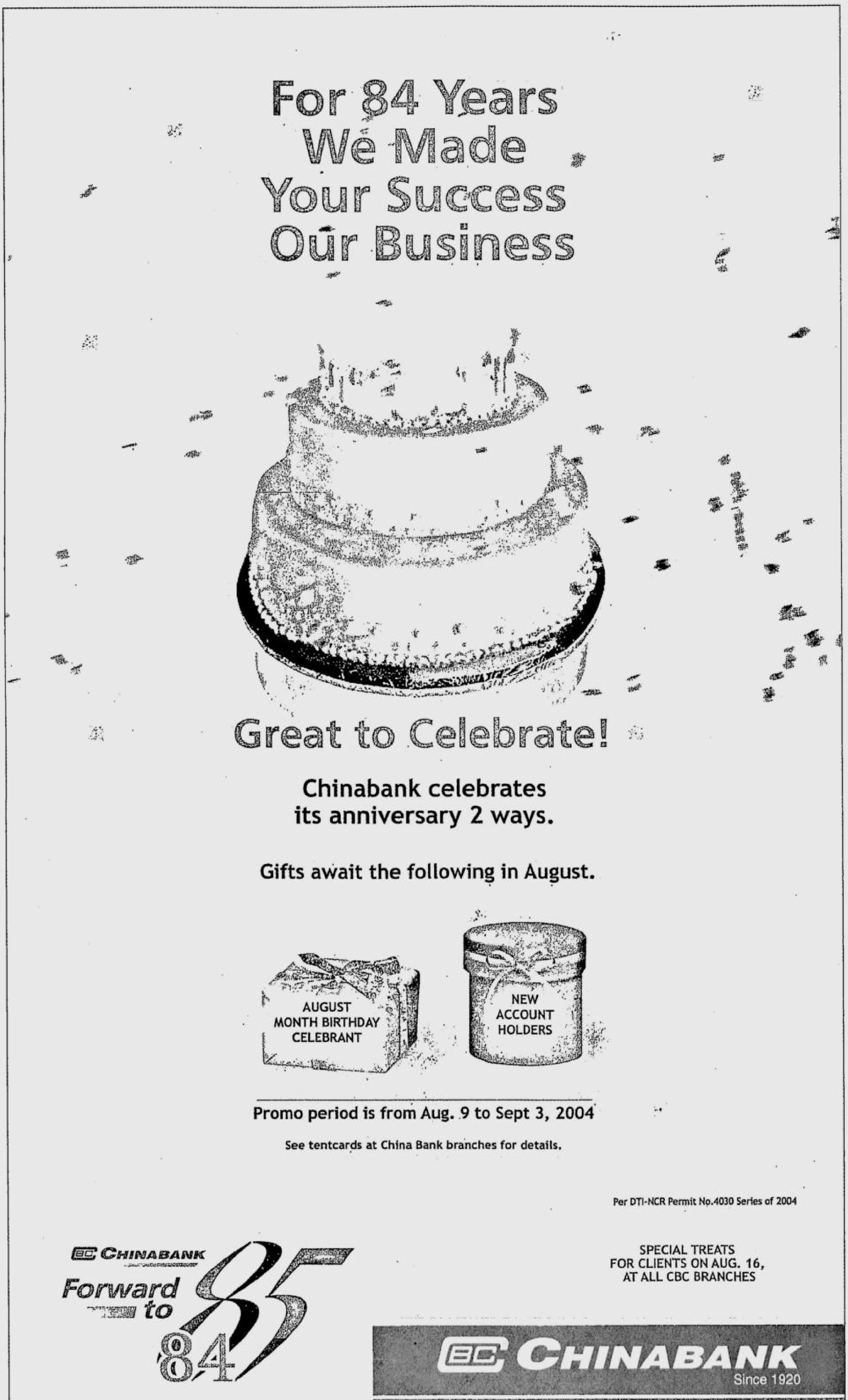
He will attend a master class in Taiwan on Aug. 11-17, after which he will play Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor in the culminating concert. In his debut with the Philippine Philharmonic last year as soloist in Grieg's A Minor Concerto, Salonga got unanimous positive reviews.

The piano prodigy recently played Chopin and Schumann in the birthday of impresario-philanthropist Rosemarie J. Arenas. "I like your distinct style of playing," Arenas told the young Salonga.

Salonga's national tour program consists of Bach's Partita No. 2 in C Minor, Beethoven's Sonata Op. 57 in F Minor, Chopin's Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23 and Schumann's Carnival, Op. 9.

The tour is sponsored by the Equitable PCI Bank, the MCO Foundation and St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City.

Call 0918-7376901 or 9017156.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By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

SOME books of fiction play out in bouts of shouting, streams of obvious exposition and predictable denouements. These are books that bob up and down, screaming, "Look at me!"

Then, there are books like "Welostit and Other Stories," a book that waves you over, pointing out something unnoticed, and says, "Look at this."

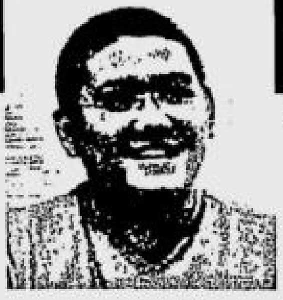
While "Welostit" is Romina Gonzalez's debut collection, the Palanca-winning writer's understated short stories have been around a bit, and finally having them together in a single volume is a welcome development. The 10 stories in "Welostit" were written from 1992-2002, and they seem to have been arranged chronologically.

A veteran journalist who covers Malacañang for another broadsheet, Gonzalez displays her impressive capacity for observation with the settings and scenarios that serve as the backdrop for the stories in "Welostit."

The stories themselves range in tone and length from quirky, charming six-page drizzles like "Till There Was You" to charged, riveting 18-page typhoons like the title story. All throughout, Gonzalez employs her mastery of silences and revelations, letting characters speak only when absolutely needed, the events unfolding with a cinematic quiet, eerie and unstoppable.

The funniest piece in the collection, "Elevator," is a wry and spare reflection of the little things that often go unnoticed in daily life and yet link up to the greater mystery of what connects people. A janitor, tired and testy at the end of the day, rises to the highest floor of his building and then, peering over the edge to the street below, urinates. The story then takes up the perspective of the unfortunate people below and their diverse reactions to the sudden shower. Yet the story never once tips its hand, leaving the reader tickled but thoughtful.

ROMANCE/ G4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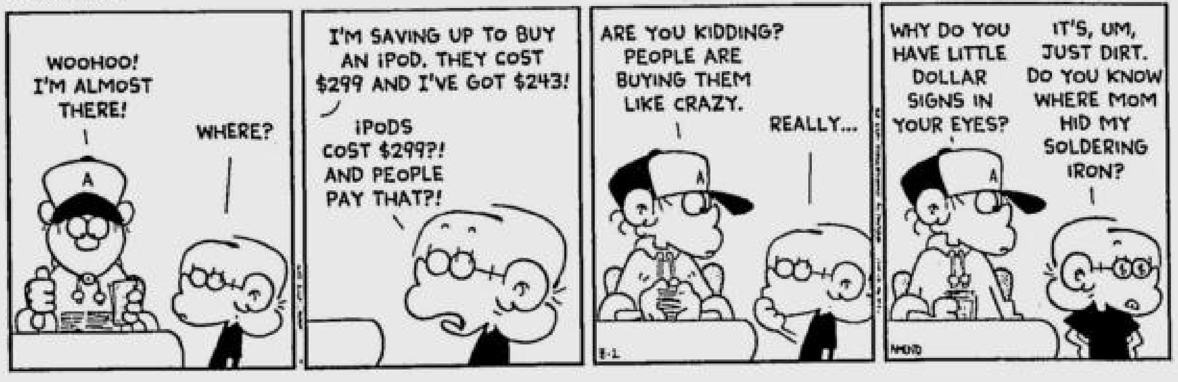
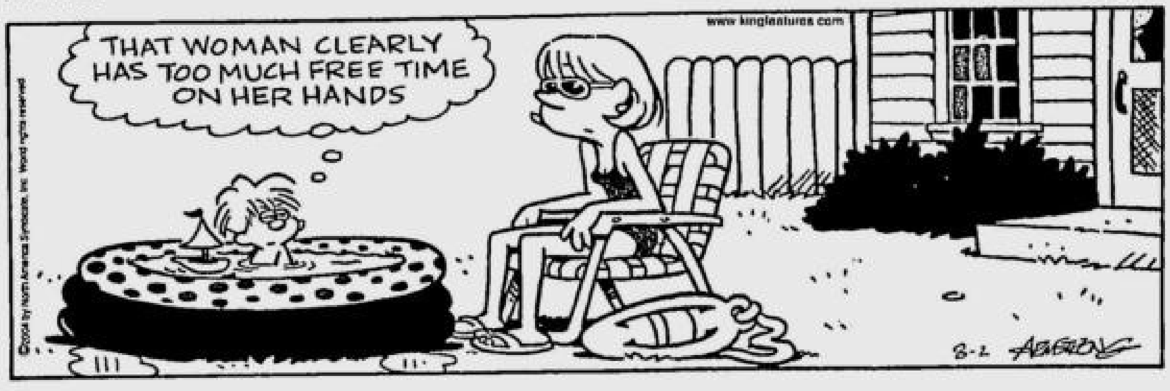
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WOOHOO! I'M ALMOST THERE!
WHERE?
I'M SAVING UP TO BUY AN iPOD. THEY COST $299 AND I'VE GOT $243!
iPODS COST $299?! AND PEOPLE PAY THAT?!
ARE YOU KIDDING? PEOPLE ARE BUYING THEM LIKE CRAZY.
REALLY...
WHY DO YOU HAVE LITTLE DOLLAR SIGNS IN YOUR EYES?
IT'S, UM, JUST DIRT. DO YOU KNOW WHERE MOM HID MY SOLDERING IRON?
8-1

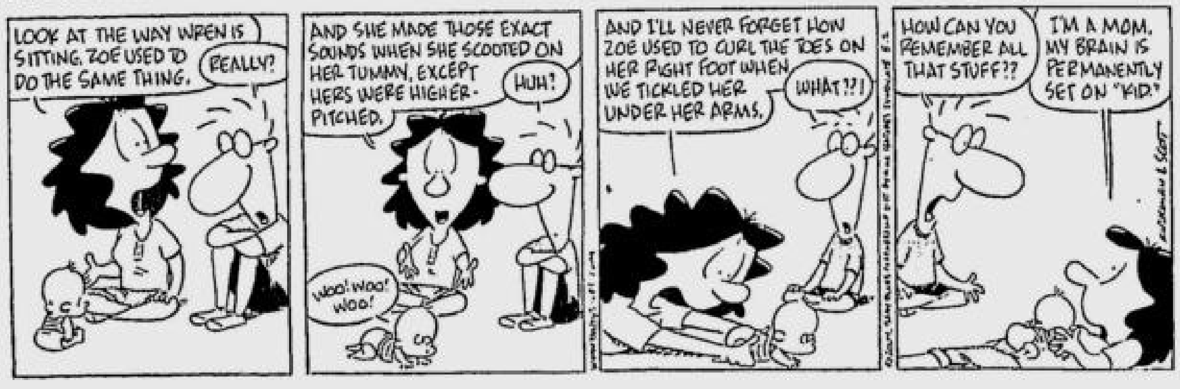
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THAT WOMAN CLEARLY HAS TOO MUCH FREE TIME ON HER HANDS
www.kingfeatures.com
8-2

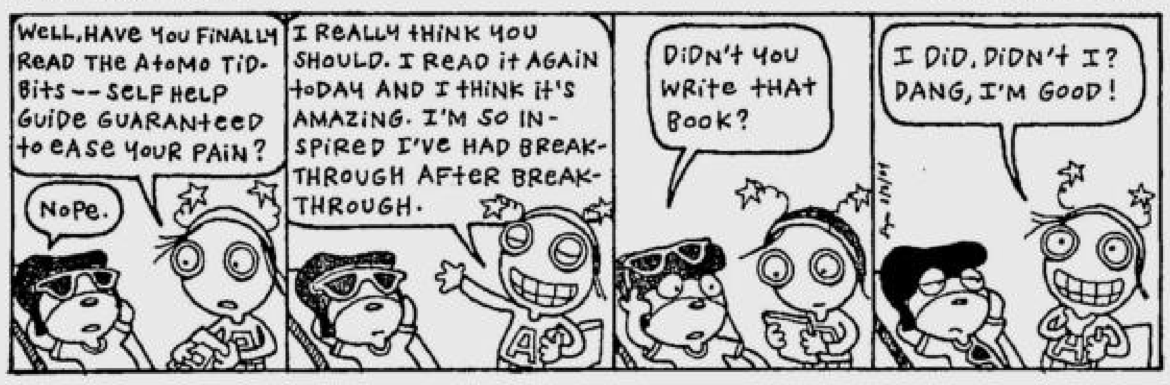
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LOOK AT THE WAY WREN IS SITTING. ZOE USED TO DO THE SAME THING.
REALLY?
AND SHE MADE THOSE EXACT SOUNDS WHEN SHE SCOOTED ON HER TUMMY, EXCEPT HERS WERE HIGHER-PITCHED.
HUH?
WOO! WOO! WOO!
AND I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW ZOE USED TO CURL THE TOES ON HER RIGHT FOOT WHEN WE TICKLED HER UNDER HER ARMS.
WHAT?!
HOW CAN YOU REMEMBER ALL THAT STUFF??
I'M A MOM. MY BRAIN IS PERMANENTLY SET ON "KID."
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, HAVE YOU FINALLY READ THE ATOMO TID-BITS -- SELF HELP GUIDE GUARANTEED TO EASE YOUR PAIN?
NOPE.
I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD. I READ IT AGAIN TODAY AND I THINK IT'S AMAZING. I'M SO IN-SPIRED I'VE HAD BREAK-THROUGH AFTER BREAK-THROUGH.
DIDN'T YOU WRITE THAT BOOK?
I DID, DIDN'T I? DANG, I'M GOOD!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You believe in living life to the fullest! You are generous, and you have a desire to teach or enlighten others. You have much to impart. It's important to believe in your creative talents. Just because they come easily to you, it doesn't diminish their value. Increased solitude this year will help you learn something very important.

Birthdate of: Edward Furlong, actor; Peter O'Toole, actor; Isabel Allende, novelist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Look for ways to improve your job or to get a better one. Jupiter is trying to help you do this now and for the next few months, but you have to do your bit too!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be open to romantic overtures that come your way. It could be some harmless flirting, or it could be the love of your life knocking at your door.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is the perfect time to buy real estate—today, tomorrow or anytime in the next few months. Your entire , family and real estate holdings will prosper.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Surely you've noticed that your optimism has returned. This is important because who you think you are is who you become! (Therefore, continue to think in positive terms.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In many ways, your sense of wealth, either literally or figuratively, has increased through boosted earnings or possessions you have purchased or been given. You are richer this year!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Right now you need more solitude, and peace and quiet than usual. In three weeks, you can flash your dazzle -- but not yet. Take a well-deserved rest if you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Travel for pleasure will please you now, if you can arrange it. Explore other cultures if you can. You might also do this through study or film.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your interaction with groups, clubs and organizations is more meaningful to you lately. Even your friendships mean more. These are the areas that bring you blessings now.

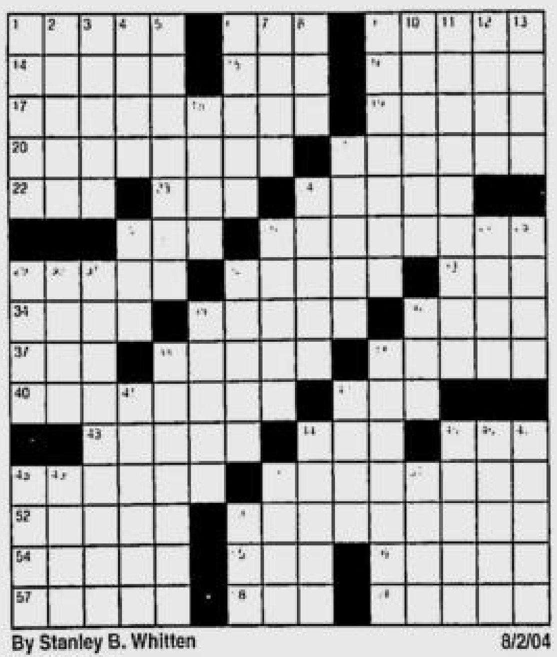
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You will improve your relations with parents and authority figures this year. You might be surprised how much they respect you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's time for you to learn more about yourself and your deeper needs. Maturity is about knowing your limitations and working within them the best that you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You continue to benefit from the wealth of others. Inheritances, extended credit, forgiven debt and outright-gifts come your way now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Family relations have improved since the rare Venus transit took place last month. The implications of this transit will benefit you for a long time.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
8/2/04

ACROSS
1 Skin of a noodle?
6 Boat propeller
9 Goes underground
14 "Dallas" matriarch
15 O.J. trial letters
16 Central courtyards
17 Flying insect
19 Knee-ankle connection
20 Consolidators
21 Rocket sections
22 Foot: suff.
23 Xenon or neon
24 Groucho's brother
25 Lair
26 Ceylon today
29 Permeate
32 Request for information
33 Trifling amount
34 Libertine
35 External
36 French feminine pronoun
37 Limb
38 Singer Petula
39 "The Silver Streak" co-star
40 Lincoln's state
42 "The Best Years of __ Lives"
43 Embankment
44 Nocturnal raptor
45 Long.'s counterpart
48 Beaver State
50 Horsemanship
52 Exclude
53 Flying insect
54 Like xenon
55 Poem of praise
56 Checks
57 Requirements
58 According to
59 Express

DOWN
1 Make ready
2 "Crazy" singer
3 Chilly
4 Gladly, old-style
5 Nearest orbital point
6 Fragrances
7 Picnic pests
8 Stadium cheer
9 Too quickly
10 Cornell's city
11 Flying insect
12 "__ kleine Nachtmusik"
13 Fifth Avenue department store
18 Nasty
21 Make cloth gathers
24 Streamlet
25 Payable on demand
26 "Kama __"
27 Metric wt.
28 Teen ending
29 Teheran's place
30 Additional
31 Flying insect
32 Tremble
35 Mary-Kate or Ashley
36 Miscalculate
38 Romps
39 Neutron stars
41 Look at
42 Was in debt to
44 Command
45 Palace of Tiepolo's frescoes
46 Emissary
47 Succinct
48 Chief Norse god
49 Actress Russo
50 Kind of ranch
51 Tallow ingredient
53 Swabby's stick

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	D	A	M	E	R	O	S	A	■	P	A	C	T
U	N	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	■	A	R	E	A
S	T	O	R	E	R	O	O	M	S	■	I	L	L	S
S	E	R	E	N	E	■	■	■	■	G	R	E	E	T
■	■	■	A	S	T	I	M	E	G	O	E	S	B	Y
S	E	A	R	■	■	M	A	D	R	I	D	■	■	■
P	R	E	S	U	M	P	T	I	O	N	■	S	I	S
A	G	O	■	N	O	R	■	F	I	T	■	N	I	A
S	O	L	■	C	R	I	M	I	N	O	L	O	G	Y
■	■	■	B	O	N	N	I	E	■	■	A	B	E	S
T	O	U	R	I	S	T	T	R	A	P	S	■	■	■
A	P	R	I	L	■	■	■	■	R	E	C	A	P	S
R	E	I	D	■	T	H	E	C	I	T	A	D	E	L
T	R	E	F	■	E	A	S	T	E	R	L	I	L	Y
S	A	L	S	■	R	E	T	A	L	I	A	T	E	S

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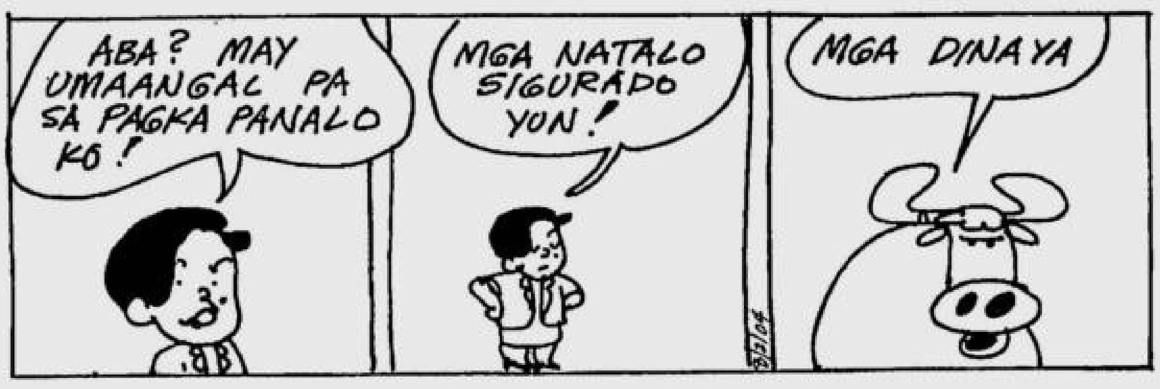
8/2/04

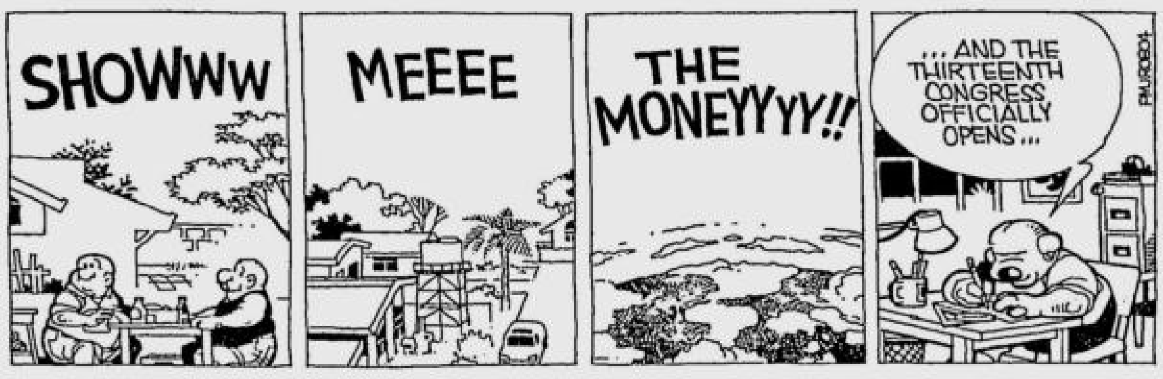
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ABA? MAY UMAANGAL PA SA PAGKA PANALO KO!
MGA NATALO SIGURADO YON!
MGA DINAYA

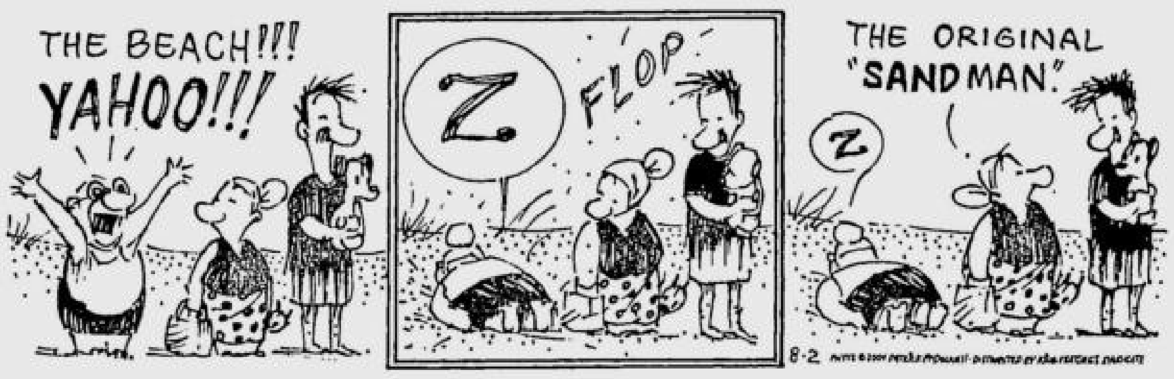
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SHOWWW
MEEEE
THE MONEYYYY!!
... AND THE THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OFFICIALLY OPENS ...
PM.JR.2004

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

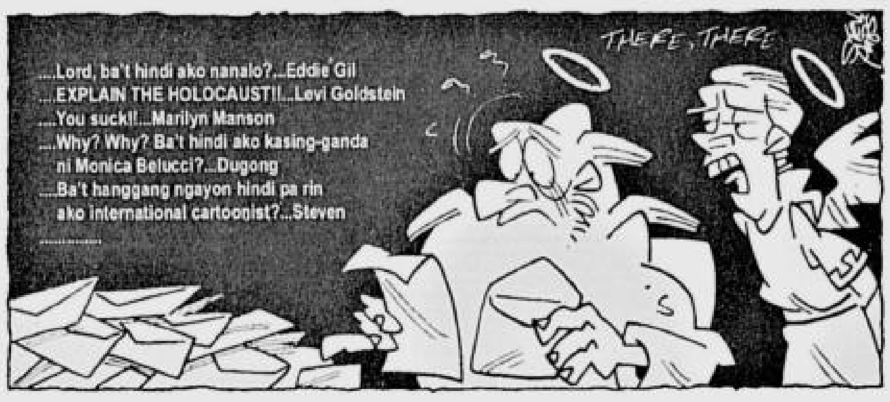

THE BEACH!!!
YAHOO!!!
Z
FLOP
THE ORIGINAL "SANDMAN."
Z
8-2

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

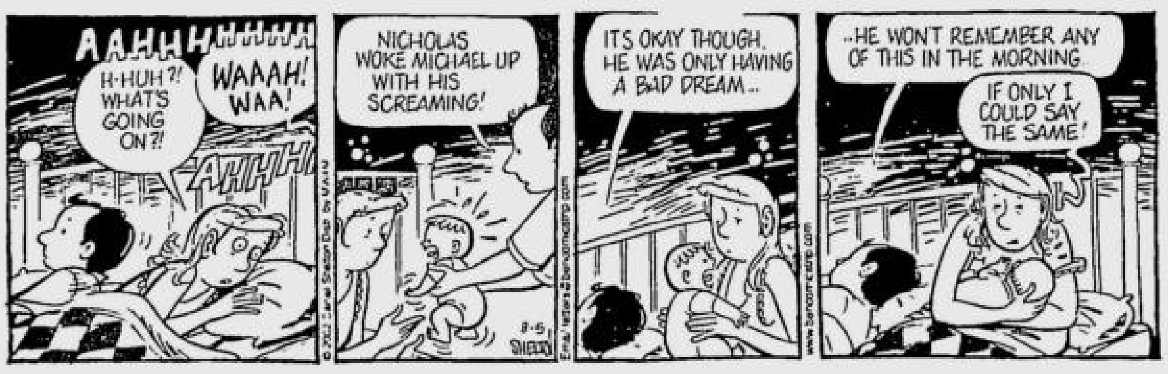
Q: WHAT IF GOD WAS ONE OF US?

A: MARAMI SYANG HATE MAILS NA MATA-TANGGAP


....Lord, ba't hindi ako nanalo?...Eddie Gil
....EXPLAIN THE HOLOCAUST!!...Levi Goldstein
....You suck!!...Marilyn Manson
....Why? Why? Ba't hindi ako kasing-ganda ni Monica Belucci?...Dugong
....Ba't hanggang ngayon hindi pa rin ako international cartoonist?...Steven
THERE, THERE

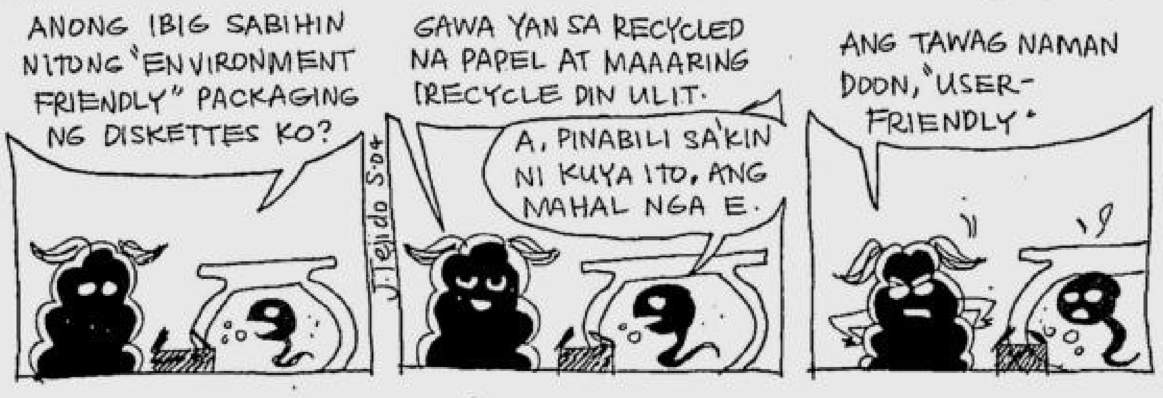
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAHHHHHHHH
H-HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WAAAH! WAA!
AHHHH
NICHOLAS WOKE MICHAEL UP WITH HIS SCREAMING!
8-5
ITS OKAY THOUGH. HE WAS ONLY HAVING A BAD DREAM...
..HE WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THIS IN THE MORNING.
IF ONLY I COULD SAY THE SAME!

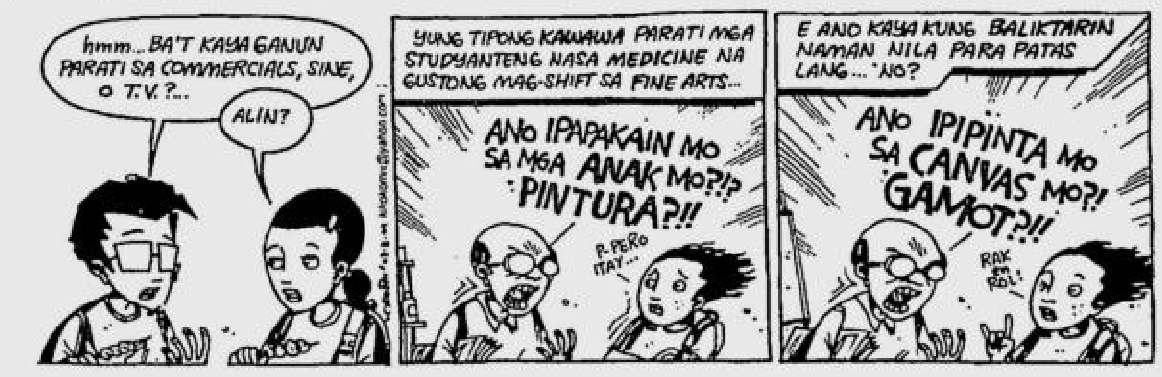
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANONG IBIG SABIHIN NITONG "ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY" PACKAGING NG DISKETTES KO?
GAWA YAN SA RECYCLED NA PAPEL AT MAAARING I-RECYCLE DIN ULIT.
A, PINABILI SA'KIN NI KUYA ITO, ANG MAHAL NGA E.
J. Tejido 5.04
ANG TAWAG NAMAN DOON, "USER-FRIENDLY"

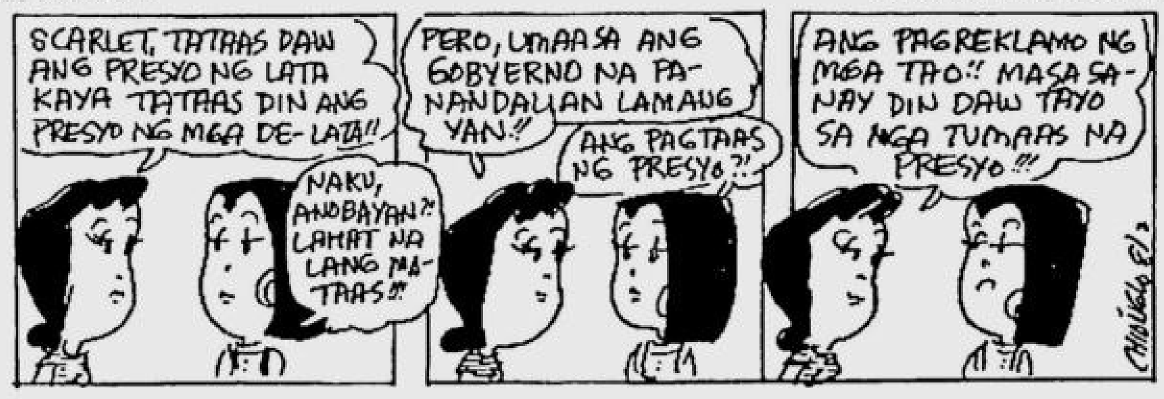
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm... BA'T KAYA GANUN PARATI SA COMMERCIALS, SINE, O T.V.?...
ALIN?
YUNG TIPONG KAWAWA PARATI MGA STUDYANTENG NASA MEDICINE NA GUSTONG MAG-SHIFT SA FINE ARTS...
ANO IPAPAKAIN MO SA MGA ANAK MO?!? PINTURA?!!
P-PERO ITAY...
E ANO KAYA KUNG BALIKTARIN NAMAN NILA PARA PATAS LANG... 'NO?
ANO IPIPINTA MO SA CANVAS MO?! GAMOT?!!
RAK EN ROL!

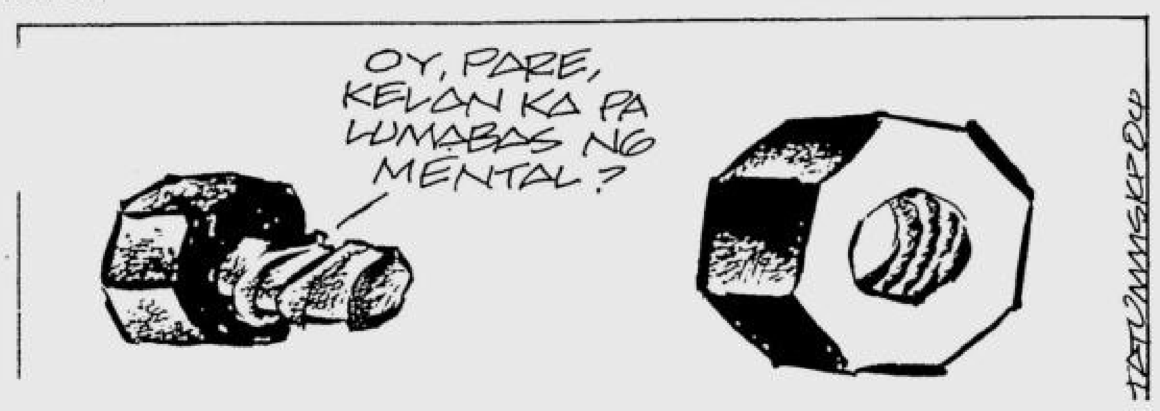
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, TATAAS DAW ANG PRESYO NG LATA KAYA TATAAS DIN ANG PRESYO NG MGA DE-LATA!!
NAKU, ANOBAYAN?! LAHAT NA LANG MA-TAAS!!
PERO, UMAASA ANG GOBYERNO NA PA-NANDALIAN LAMANG YAN!!
ANG PAGTAAS NG PRESYO?!
ANG PAGREKLAMO NG MGA TAO!! MASA SA-NAY DIN DAW TAYO SA MGA TUMAAS NA PRESYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, PARE, KELAN KA PA LUMABAS NG MENTAL?

Manila book fair moves to World Trade Center

THE COUNTRY'S top publishers are set to gather for the Manila International Book Fair, the country's foremost book event.

Now on its 25th year, the book fair will be held at the World Trade Center Manila, Gil Puyat Ave. and Roxas Blvd., on Aug 11-15.

With the theme "Let Reading and Literacy Glitter as MIBF Goes Silver," the fair brings together local and foreign publishers, wholesalers and retailers, book lovers and collectors, librarians, and every major player in the publishing industry to promote books and reading.

The 25th Manila International Book Fair is organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc. in partnership with the Asian Catholic Publishers, Inc., Book Development Association of the Philippines, Philippine Booksellers Association Inc., and Publishers Representatives Association of the Philippines. It is supported by the Book Exporters Association of the Philippines, Christian Booksellers Association—Philippine Chapter, and Philippine Educational Publishers Association.

E-mail bookfair@primetradeasia.com or call 896-0682 or 896-0661.

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Nutren is a delicious meal replacement product and supplement in powder form – a breakthrough from the Nestlé Research Center in Switzerland. Known and prescribed by doctors, Nutren provides support for medical conditions where the role of nutrition is vital. In itself, Nutren is more than a complete meal since it contains whey plus all of the essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals in **every** glass.

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- help maintain muscle mass throughout aging and repair body tissues[1]
- help boost the immune system by raising levels of glutathione (an **anti-oxidant**), thereby helping reduce the risk of infection[2]

	WHEY
Nutren Meal Replacement	HIGH
Milk supplements	LOW
Table food	NONE

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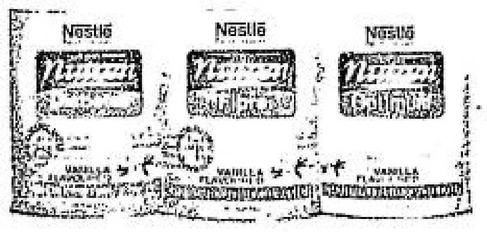

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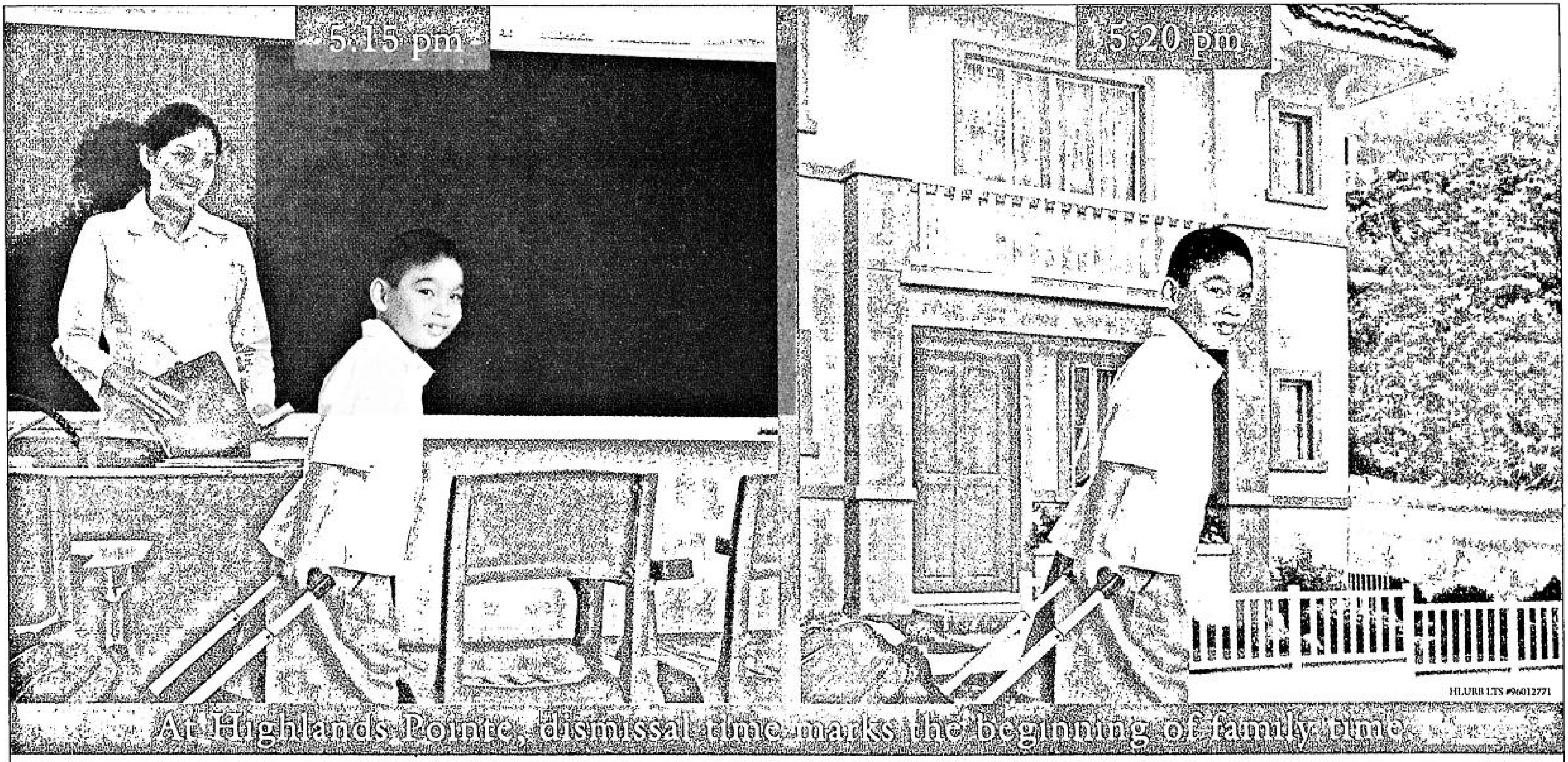
[1] Walzem, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German. Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353, 2002.

[2] [illegible] A. Cancer Res 1994;54(5):1969-1975.


5:15 pm
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Spend some time with your family at your future home in Highlands Pointe this Saturday, August 7, 10am to 4pm. Call us for free shuttle service!

Book of sophisticated, humorous essays

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has released "Wala Lang: Files (Funny & Serious) on Youthful Being and Nothingness" by Bud Tomas.

In this first book of short essays, Bud Tomas wryly looks at life in high school, college, law school and the world of work with fresh, young eyes. His essays are suffused with sophisticated wit and thoughtful insights on a wide range of topics, some of them important, some inconsequential, and some simultaneously important and inconsequential.

His style is fast-paced, eminently readable and never boring, having been honed on the Internet. He is always interesting, never trite, and frequently surprises the reader by putting an entirely unexpected spin on familiar themes.

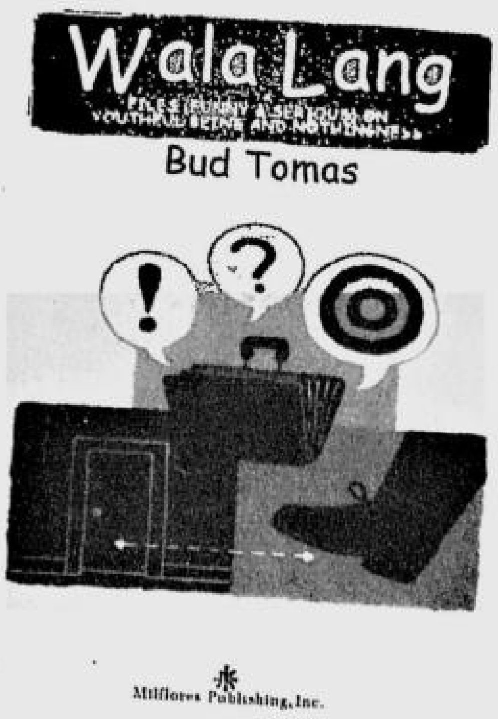
Writing on death and eternity, Tomas begins with a comic quote: "Styrofoam cups are biodegradable; you people are just impatient."

He begins his musings on sports, with which he has a love-hate relationship, with an imagined dialogue between a diehard Ginebra fan and a spectator at a dream match between Ginebra and the Chicago Bulls:

Super Fan: "*Ano'ng* score?"
Spectator: "246 to 55, last two minutes."
Super Fan: "*Sino'ng lamang*?"
Spectator: "Bulls."
Super Fan: "*Hatawwwww*!!!!"

The author obtained his BA in Philosophy, cum laude, and his law degree from the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He passed the bar and now works at the Supreme Court.

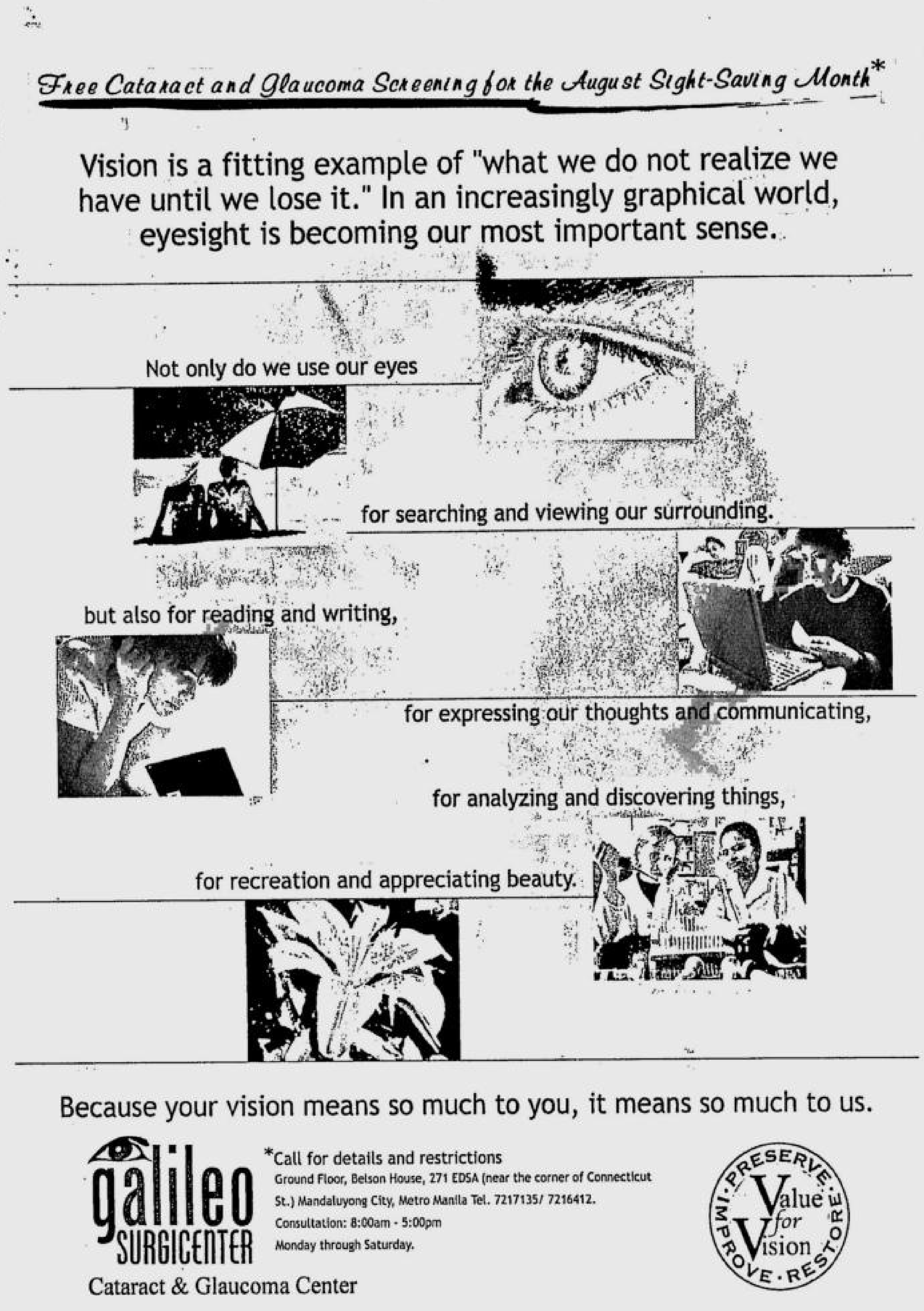
"Wala Lang" was the title of an online column he wrote as he wrestled with law school, the bar, and the eternal question: "Where do we eat?"


Wala Lang
Files (Funny & Serious) on Youthful Being and Nothingness
Bud Tomas
Milflores Publishing, Inc.

Robert Magnuson illustrated the book in his original comic-book style. Mes de Guzman, award-winning fictionist and documentary film director and producer, designed the cover.

"Wala Lang" is available at all National Book Stores, PowerBooks and other bookstores nationwide at P370 per copy.

Call 7216431, fax 7213748 or e-mail: milflores@pacific.net.ph


Free Cataract and Glaucoma Screening for the August Sight-Saving Month*

Vision is a fitting example of "what we do not realize we have until we lose it." In an increasingly graphical world, eyesight is becoming our most important sense.

Not only do we use our eyes
for searching and viewing our surrounding.
but also for reading and writing,
for expressing our thoughts and communicating,
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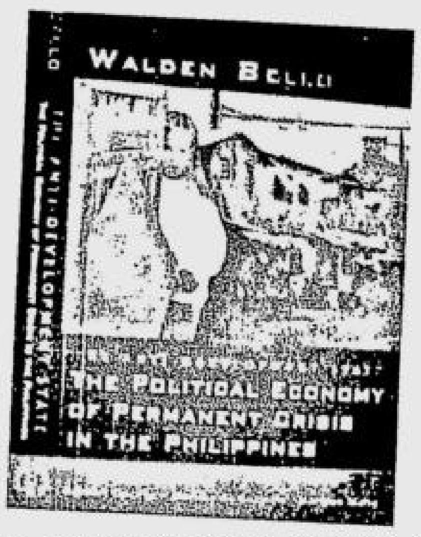
Walden Bello releases new critique on Philippine economy

WALDEN Bello's new book, "The Anti Development State: The Political Economy of Permanent Crisis in the Philippines," is the most provocative he has written so far. If we are one of the millions of confused citizens wondering what has gone wrong with the Philippines, we should read it.

"Wrong-headed policies, missed opportunities, and lack of political will—this pretty much sums up the period," Bello writes about the causes.

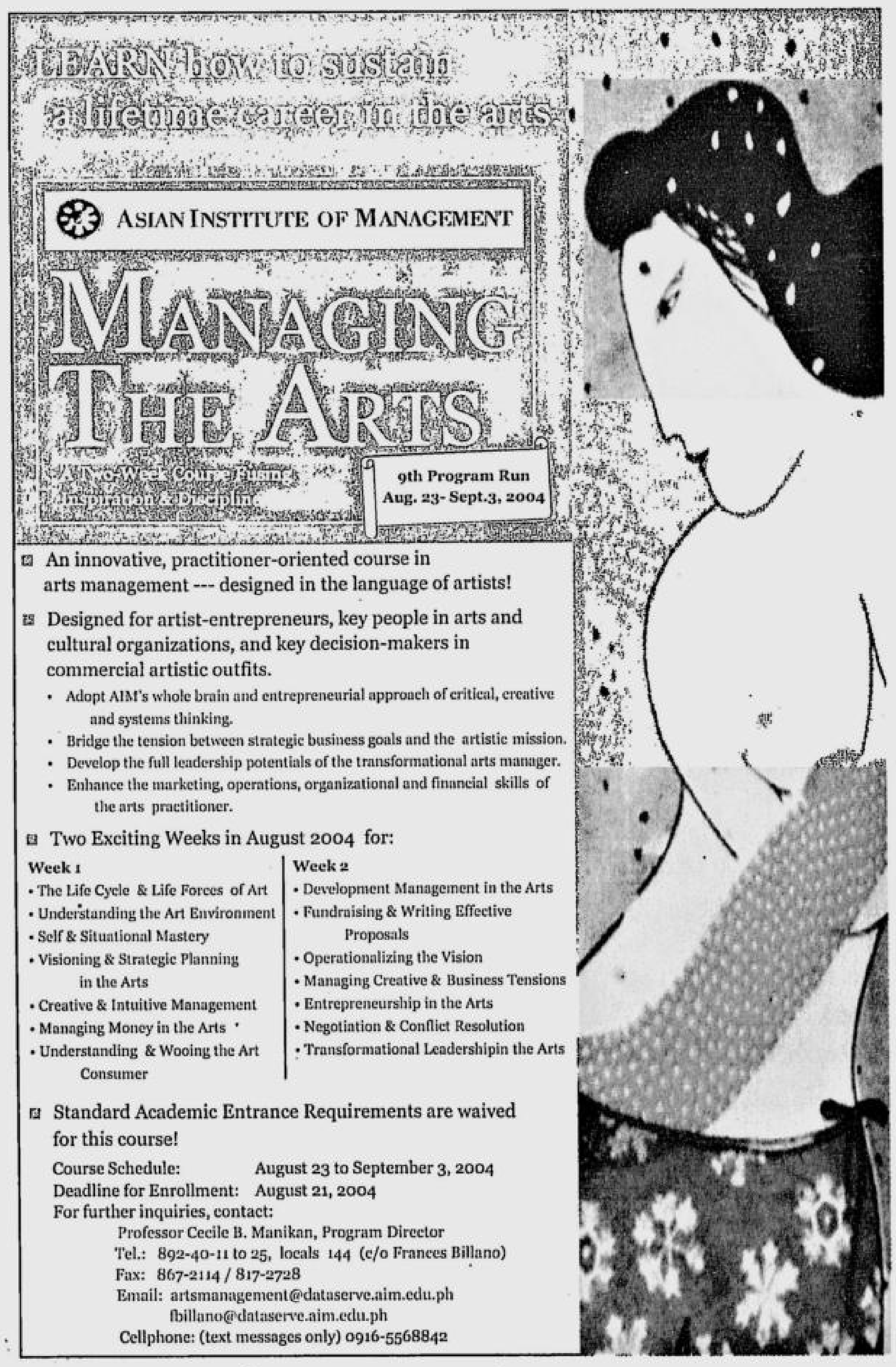
The book unequivocally points where the buck stops—and the buck stops with the state. A human agency, the Philippine state, its policy-makers and technocrats, are responsible for the crisis.

Another book of charges, yes, but Bello and his co-authors Herbert Docena, Marissa de Guzman and Marylou Malig, deploy evidence that are hard to refute.


WALDEN BELLO
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PERMANENT CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The book is harsh in its judgment and unflinching in its proposals. But its positive message is that if the state has brought about the crisis, then the state can also act to change it.

Available at National Book Store for P375.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Romance, heartbreak, tragedy in Urine Town

From page G1

Sometimes Gonzalez journeys to the fringes of experience by weaving seemingly folkloric elements into an elemental human situation. In "Offertory," what begins as an ordinary remembrance transforms into a sprawling tale that is part tragedy and part old wives' tale.

"Sunset Hair" and "Sanded Soles" present supernatural judgment and the narrow lenses through which tragedy is viewed.

This combination is carried to even greater heights in the powerful "Rock," where an isolated girl is at turns wooed and accosted by, apparently, a wooden rocking horse brought to life by her own blood. The girl's journey mirrors the reader's, a dizzying flight somewhere between magic and dementia.

Strained connections

The strained connections between people occupy a great deal of the happenings in "Welostit." Gonzalez burrows deep beneath the skin and sinews of the stunned and often scared characters in her stories and shows the reader what lies beneath. What remains unspoken in these stories shake the reader to the core, striking veins rich in emotion or memory.

Workplace abuse gets the subtle treatment in "Cockroach." In "Metropole Valentine," a relocated couple battle everyday demons as they adjust to a life in Chicago. The skirmishes are brutal in their seeming innocuousness.

In "Flood," the woman who didn't marry well attends the big clan reunion, letting herself and her family fall into traps of her own making. The indignities she and her daughter suffer coincide with a downpour of rain and realizations in a story that twists just right.

But it is in "Welostit," a story that is humorous and also heartbreakingly real, that the book hides its dramatic center. The 11-year gap between the star-crossed lovers in this story becomes wider than imagined when the narrator/protagonist gets pregnant.

It's as much a reflection on a relationship as it is a meditation on unplanned motherhood: "That was the time we went to a place overlooking the whole city, where you told me how often you wondered whether I was really born before the Beatles had their first number one hit. You said I was so much younger than you in many ways. I had heard it said so many times from you that I wondered whether you had been drinking too much again. Who was my first love? It was the kind of talk that we never even attempted to get into, even as a joke, despite the months we'd known each other."

Just as the initially playful chase seems so desirable and enjoyable, the ensuing avalanche of events and emotions seems so horrific and inescapable that readers will get the urge to read from behind fingers covering their faces.

And Gonzalez gingerly and unerringly walks this minefield of angst: "But I had known better and I had always been safe until that rainy night. But some things just happen. Unplanned, hardly thought of and never even considered, but still, they happened.

"It's like that lychee seedling that suddenly sprouted from my mother's pot of asparagus ferns in the den. Who would have known that the seeds I had thrown there as I emptied a bowl of fresh lychees, the easier way out of walking to the kitchen which would have disrupted my Sunday morning cable TV viewing, would germinate? As I walked home that night under the rain, eating my drenched chicken shawarma, I didn't know that I would find you on my doorstep, or that the muddy floor would pave the way to an initially pleasurable, later wretched, night."

With her exquisitely spare prose and her perfectly placed details, Gonzalez whips a sobering brew of romance and heartbreak, promises broken and fulfilled, tragedies averted and triggered, all occurring in plain sight or beyond the realm of the senses. This is a rousing debut of fire and rain—and the clarity that comes after every storm.

Available at leading book stores.